



Tornadoes devastate Tennessee, killing at least 22 people

By TRAVIS LOLLER and KIM-BERLEE KRUESI

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tornadoes ripped across Tennessee as families slept early Tuesday, shredding more than 140 buildings and burying people in piles of rubble and wrecked basements. At least 22 people were killed, many of them before they could even get out of bed, authorities said.

Sirens and cellphone alerts sounded, but the twisters

that struck around 2 a.m. moved so quickly that many people in their path could not flee to safer areas.

"It hit so fast, a lot of folks didn't have time to take shelter," Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter said. "Many of these folks were sleeping."

One twister wrecked homes and businesses across a 10-mile (16 kilometer) stretch of downtown Nashville.

Continued on next page



A man looks over buildings destroyed by storms Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. Tornadoes ripped across Tennessee early Tuesday, shredding buildings and killing multiple people. Associated Press

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Continued from front

It smashed more than three dozen buildings, including destroying the tower and stained glass of a historic church. Another tornado damaged more than 100 structures along a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) path of destruction in Putnam County, wiping some homes from their foundations and depositing the wreckage far away.

Daybreak revealed landscapes littered with blown-down walls and roofs, snapped power lines and huge broken trees, making many city streets and rural roads impassable. Schools, courts, transit lines, an airport and the state Capitol were closed. More than a dozen polling stations were also damaged, forcing Super Tuesday voters to wait in long lines at alternative sites.

The death toll climbed steadily as first responders gingerly pulled apart wreckage.

Sheriff Eddie Farris said only 30 percent of the Putnam County disaster area had received a "hard check" by midday. "A lot of these homes had basements, and we're hopeful there are still people down in there," he said.

Nashville residents walked around in dismay on streets and sidewalks littered with debris, in neighborhoods where missing walls and roofs left living rooms and kitchens exposed. Mangled power lines and broken trees came to rest on cars, streets and piles of rubble.

"It is heartbreaking. We have had loss of life all across the state," said Gov. Bill Lee, who ordered nonessential state workers to stay home and then boarded a helicopter to survey the damage.

President Donald Trump announced plans to visit the disaster area on Friday.



Sumant Joshi helps to clean up rubble at the East End United Methodist Church after it was heavily damaged by storms Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. Joshi is a resident in the area and volunteered to help clean up.

Associated Press

"We send our love and our prayers of the nation to every family that was affected," he said. "We will get there, and we will recover, and we will rebuild, and we will help them." The tornadoes were spawned by a line of severe storms that stretched from Alabama into western Pennsylvania. In Nashville, the twister's path was mostly north and east of the heart of downtown, sparing many of the city's biggest tourism draws — the honky tonks of Broadway, the Grand Ole Opry House, the storied Ryman Auditorium and the convention center.

Instead the storm tore through the largely African American area of Bordeaux as well as neighborhoods

transformed by a recent building boom. Germantown and East Nashville are two of the city's trendiest hotspots, with restaurants, music venues, high-end apartment complexes and rising home prices threatening to drive out longtime residents.

"The dogs started barking before the sirens went off. They knew what was coming," said Paula Wade, of East Nashville. "Then we heard the roar... Something made me just sit straight up in bed, and something came through the window right above my head. If I hadn't moved, I would've gotten a face full of glass." Then she looked across the street and saw the damage at East End United

Methodist Church.

"It's this beautiful Richardson Romanesque church. The bell tower is gone, the triptych window of Jesus the good shepherd that they just restored and put back up a few weeks ago is gone," she said.

The roof came crashing down on Ronald Baldwin and Harry Nahay in the bedroom of their one-story brick home in East Nashville. "We couldn't get out," Baldwin said. "And so I just kept kicking and kicking until we finally made a hole."

The roaring wind woke Evan and Carlie Peters, also in East Nashville, but they had no time to reach the relative safety of an interior bathroom.

"Within about 10 seconds,

the house started shaking," Carlie Peters said. "I jumped on top of the ground. He jumped on top of me. The ceiling landed on top of him. ... we're grateful to be alive."

With more than a dozen Super Tuesday polling places in Nashville's Davidson County damaged, voters were sent to other locations, some of them with long lines.

The Tennessee secretary of state delayed opening polls in the disaster area for an hour, but said they would close as scheduled Tuesday night. The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law urged the governor and elections officials to extend the primary through at least the end of the week.

The tornado blew down a major Tennessee Valley Authority transmission line in Putnam County, and Nashville Electric tweeted that four of its substations were damaged, leaving more than 44,000 customers in the dark.

The severe weather also damaged gas lines, water mains and cellphone towers, making the rescue and recovery efforts much more difficult, authorities said.

Schools were closed in Nashville and beyond as families who were suddenly homeless tried to figure out their next steps. Hundreds of people went to a Red Cross shelter at the Nashville Farmers Market, just north of the state Capitol, but a power outage there forced them to move again to the Centennial Sportsplex.

The weather also reduced much of the interior of the long-closed Tennessee State Prison in Shelbyville to huge piles of bricks, the state Department of Corrections said in a tweet. The prison formed the set of "The Green Mile" and other films. □



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Court considers whether men-only draft is constitutional

By KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Weeks before a government commission weighs in on the subject, a federal appeals court panel was urged Tuesday to rule un-

and other observers at Tulane University. Marc Angelucci, an attorney arguing for the National Coalition for Men and two men challenging the male-only draft, said the 1981 case was decided at

determining whether to draft women in the event of a wartime emergency necessitating the return of conscription. Those considerations include anticipated mortality rates for women in combat, and the

need for equipment and facilities for women drafted in equal numbers to men. Those arguments are of little consequence, Weiner said, if the court holds that the 1981 Supreme Court ruling constitutes an insur-

mountable precedent. The appeals panel is considering whether to uphold a Texas-based federal judge's 2019 ruling that the men-only draft is unconstitutional. It did not indicate when it would rule. □



In this Sept. 18, 2012 file photo, female soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division train on a firing range while testing new body armor in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Associated Press

constitutional the military's all-male draft registration system. But the three members of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals appeared skeptical that they should do so in light of a 1981 Supreme Court ruling that upheld the men-only draft registration system. Judges Carl Stewart, Don Willett and Jacques Weiner questioned whether the 1981 precedent could be disregarded, even when the military decided in 2015 to allow women into combat roles. "That doesn't free us to engage in anticipatory overruling does it?" Willett asked during Tuesday's hearing. The session was held before an audience of roughly 50 students, faculty members

a time when women were largely absent from combat. Having women in combat roles now significantly changes the circumstances, Angelluci said. And, he said, lower courts are not bound to outdated precedents when the facts change so significantly. Arguing for the government, U.S. Justice Department lawyer Claire Murray said lower courts don't have the authority to overturn the Supreme Court precedent. She added that the courts must defer to Congress in matters governing the military draft. Congress has not moved to require women to register. She said Congress has legitimate considerations in

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Trump says he spoke to a Taliban leader, had 'good talk'

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump confirmed Tuesday that he spoke on the phone to a Taliban leader, making him the first U.S. president believed to ever speak directly with the militant group that harbored al-Qaida before the 9/11 attacks and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of U.S. troops in nearly 19 years of fighting in Afghanistan.

"We had a very good conversation with the leader of the Taliban today, and they're looking to get this ended, and we're looking to get it ended. I think we all have a very common interest," Trump said. "We had, actually, a very good talk with the leader of the Taliban."

Tuesday's call, which the Taliban said lasted 35 minutes, came days after the United States and the Taliban signed an agreement calling for the withdrawal of American troops — allowing Trump to make progress on a key campaign pledge to extract the U.S. from what he calls "endless wars" and paving the way for all-Afghan talks to begin on Tuesday.

Trump suggested the phone call was not his first. Asked if Tuesday was his first conversation with a leader of the Taliban, Trump said, "I don't want to say that."

Earlier, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid tweeted that the president had spoken on the phone with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Taliban and head of their political office in Qatar.

"The relationship is very good that I have with the mullah," Trump said. "We had a good long conversation today and, you know, they want to cease the vio-



President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he leaves the White House, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Washington, to visit the National Institutes of Health's Vaccine Research Center in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

lence. They'd like to cease violence also."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo witnessed the agreement, which was signed last Saturday in Doha, Qatar, by chief negotiators from the two sides. According to the deal, all 13,000 U.S. troops will leave Afghanistan within 14 months if the Taliban meet their obligations to America. Those promises are tied to fighting terrorism, preventing Afghanistan from becoming a haven for terrorists, denouncing terrorist groups, severing past links with the likes of al-Qaida and helping fight the Islamic State group affiliate.

It also envisioned talks between Afghans on both sides of the conflict starting March 10, most likely

in Oslo, Norway. But so far there's no confirmation that important next step will take place. The U.S. withdrawal is not tied to Afghanistan's warring sides figuring out how to talk to each other, let alone coming to an agreement on what peace among them will look like.

Already there are hurdles. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has refused to release up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which the agreement said would happen before the start of the so-called intra-Afghan negotiations next week. The Ghani administration claims those releases will be part of negotiations. The Taliban are to release up to 1,000 Afghan government and military captives.

Trump said it's still unclear what the Afghans will do when and if they sit with the Taliban and attempt to draft a peaceful political future for the nation.

"The country really has to get it ended. We've been there for 20 years. Other presidents have tried and they were unsuccessful," he said.

In addition to the tweet, the Afghan Taliban also released a statement, saying the phone call took place shortly after 9:30 a.m. EST. SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors communications from militant organizations, said the Taliban statement claimed the call was held in the presence of a number of members of the Taliban negotiating committee and Zalmay

Khalilzad, the U.S. envoy who negotiated the deal.

According to the statement, the phone conversation was about how both sides will implement the agreement. Baradar assured Trump that if the United States honored the agreement, then the U.S. and the Taliban will have "positive bilateral relations," the statement said.

The statement said the Taliban leader told Trump: "Mr. President! Take determined actions in regards to the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and do not allow anyone to take actions that violate the terms of the agreement thus embroiling you even further in this prolonged war."

The White House provided no additional details about what was said on the call.

In the past, people have wrongly believed that President Ronald Reagan had a meeting with the Taliban. In 1983, Reagan hosted five "Afghan freedom fighters" in the Oval Office. At the time, the U.S. was backing these Afghan fighters battling the Soviet Union. The Taliban was not formed until the 1990s.

In the 1980s, the U.S. was among those who encouraged hundreds of Arab fighters to travel to Afghanistan to fight alongside the Afghan mujahedeen, or holy warriors, against the Soviet Union's forces there. Today, many of those fighters make up the Taliban leadership, while others are in power in the U.S.-backed Afghan government.

As the war came to a close in 1988, many of the Arab fighters united to follow the wealthy Saudi leader Osama bin Laden to create al-Qaida, which orchestrated the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. □

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U.S. prosecutors tie Honduras president to drug trafficker

By **CLAUDIA TORRENS**

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. prosecutors said Tuesday that Honduras' president met a drug trafficker around 2013 and took \$25,000 in exchange for protecting the trafficker from law enforcement.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York issued a statement referring to President Juan Orlando Hernández only as a "high-ranking Honduran official" or as "CC-4," a co-conspirator. But in court documents, it identified "CC-4" as president of Honduras and brother of former congressman Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, who was convicted on drug charges last year. In previous filing, U.S. prosecutors have described "CC-4" as the winner of the 2013 presidential elections.

It was not clear if the alleged incident involving the trafficker occurred before or after federal congressman Juan Orlando Hernández won the 2013 presidential election. He took office in January 2014.

He has not been charged and did not immediately comment on the allegations, but he has repeatedly denied earlier allegations of connections to traffickers.

U.S. prosecutors arrested Geovanny Daniel Fuentes Ramires at Miami International Airport on Sunday on charges of conspiring to import cocaine into the U.S. and related weapons charges.

They say Fuentes met with Juan Orlando Hernández on several occasions and spoke of a cocaine laboratory that Fuentes was running near Puerto Cortes on the Atlantic coast. Juan Orlando Hernández expressed interest in access to the lab because it was so close to the port, according to court documents, which did not explain why he was interested.

The documents say Juan Orlando Hernández and Fuentes agreed "to facilitate the use of Honduran armed forces personnel as security" for Fuentes' drug-trafficking activities.

It also said that Hernández instructed Fuentes that his brother, Hernández Alvarado, "was managing drug-trafficking activities in Honduras and that Fuentes should report directly to Hernández Alvarado for purposes of drug trafficking."

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said in the statement that "Fuentes Ramirez paved the way for unimpeded shipment of multi-ton loads of cocaine by bribing police and a high-ranking Honduran politician, and reporting directly to Tony Hernandez, another co-conspirator in the scheme and himself a former Honduran congressman."

It's not the first time U.S. prosecutors have linked President Hernández to the drug trade.

Last August, prosecutors said he had used \$1.5 million from drug traffickers to help win the presidency in 2013. During his brother's trial in New York last year, prosecutors repeatedly suggested President Hernández had benefited from the drug traffickers' financial support.

His brother is scheduled to be sentenced in April. Hernández won re-election in 2017 in elections plagued with irregularities.

Yet Hernández has maintained the support of the



In this Aug. 13, 2019 file photo, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez answers questions from the Associated Press, as he leaves a meeting at the Organization of American States, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump administration, which has pressured Honduras to slow the flow of migrants out of the country. The U.S. government plans to soon begin sending asylum-seekers from other countries to Honduras. During a January visit to

Honduras, acting U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said, "Honduras is a valued and proven partner to the United States in managing migration and promoting security and prosperity in Central America." □



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Tensions rise as U.S. death toll from coronavirus reaches 9

By **GENE JOHNSON and CARLA K. JOHNSON**

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP)—Tensions over how to contain the coronavirus escalated Tuesday in the United States as the death toll climbed to nine and lawmakers expressed doubts about the government's ability to ramp up testing fast enough to deal with the crisis.

All of the deaths have occurred in Washington state, and most were residents of a nursing home in suburban Seattle. The number of infections in the U.S. overall climbed past 100, scattered across at least 15 states, with 27 cases in Washington alone.

"What is happening now in the United States may be the beginning of what is happening abroad," said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noting that in China, where the outbreak began more than two months ago, older and sicker people are about twice as likely to become seriously ill as those who are younger and healthier. Most cases have been mild.

The nursing home outbreak apparently seeded the first case in North Carolina, authorities said. A Wake County resident who had visited the Washington state nursing home tested positive but is in isolation at home and is doing well, according to the North Carolina governor's office.

In suburban Seattle, 27 firefighters and paramedics who responded to calls at the nursing home were tested for the virus Tuesday using a drive-thru system set up in a hospital parking area.

Thirty-year-old firefighter Kevin Grimstad took care of two patients Jan. 29 at Life Care Center in Kirkland. He is among 10 from the Kirkland Fire Department who developed symptoms after calls to the nursing facility. Grimstad, his wife and 6-month-old son have taken turns recovering from fevers, coughs and congestion. They're all feeling better,



A man wearing a mask and goggles rides his bike out of the parking lot at the Life Care Center is shown in Kirkland, Wash., near Seattle, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Associated Press

but wish they knew more about the virus.

"It's crazy. A couple of weeks ago, it seemed like a foreign thing and now we're getting tested," Grimstad said. "If I was exposed a month ago, the problem is more widespread than we know."

In the nation's capital, officials moved on a number of fronts.

A bipartisan \$7.5 billion emergency bill to fund the government's response to the outbreak worked its way through Congress.

The Federal Reserve announced the biggest interest-rate cut in over a decade to try to fend off damage to the U.S. economy from the factory shutdowns, travel restrictions and other disruptions around the globe. On Wall Street, stocks rallied briefly on the news, then went into another steep slide, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average losing 785 points

on the day, or 2.9%.

"We have seen a broader spread of the virus. So, we saw a risk to the economy and we chose to act," Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said.

Also, the Food and Drug Administration sought to ease a shortage of face masks by giving health care workers the OK to use an industrial type of respirator mask designed to protect construction crews from dust and debris.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill expressed skepticism about U.S. health officials' claims that testing for the new virus should be widely available soon.

CDC test kits delivered to states and cities in January proved faulty.

Authorities have said labs across the country should have the capacity to run as many as 1 million tests by the end of the week.

But testing so far has faced delays and missteps, and

"I'm hearing from health professionals that's unrealistic," Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state said at a Senate hearing.

The chief of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn, said the FDA has been working with a private company to get as many as 2,500 test kits out to labs by the end of the week. Each kit should enable a lab to run about 500 tests, he said. But health officials were careful about making promises.

"I am optimistic, but I want to remain humble," said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the CDC.

In Washington state, researchers believe the virus may have been circulating undetected for weeks. That has raised fears that there could be hundreds of undiagnosed cases in the area. But some people who want to be tested for the virus in the state are encountering confusion, a lack of testing

options and other problems as health authorities scramble to deal with the crisis.

"The people across my state are really scared. I'm hearing from people who are sick, who want to get tested and don't know where to go," Murray said. "It's unacceptable that people in my state can't even get an answer as to whether or not they are infected."

One lab was already testing for coronavirus in Washington state and a second was scheduled to begin doing so Tuesday.

Amid the rising fears, a school district north of Seattle closed for training on conducting remote lessons via computer in case schools have to be shut down for an extended period, while a private school said it would conduct on-line-only classes through the end of March.

"We do not feel it is prudent to wait until there is a known case to take action," the school, Eastside Prep in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland, said on its website.

A Department of Homeland Security facility just south of Seattle instructed all its employees to work from home after a worker became ill after visiting the nursing home at the center of the outbreak.

Elsewhere around the world, the crisis continued to ebb in China, where hundreds of patients were released from hospitals and new infections dropped to just 125 on Tuesday, the lowest in several weeks. But the crisis seemed to shift westward, with alarmingly fast-growing clusters of infections and deaths in South Korea, Iran and Italy. Worldwide, more than 92,000 people have been sickened and 3,100 have died, the vast majority of them in China. Most cases have been mild.

"What China shows is that early containment and identification of cases can work, but we now need to implement that in other countries," said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an infectious-diseases expert at King's College London. □

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Peter Pan to continue allowing immigration checks on buses

BOSTON (AP) — Peter Pan Bus Lines, a major Northeast carrier, will continue to allow federal immigration officials on its buses to conduct routine checks for immigrants living in the country illegally, saying it could help stem human trafficking, the company said this week.

Peter Pan, based in Springfield, Massachusetts, "has always and will continue to cooperate with law enforcement," Christopher Crean, vice president of safety and security, said Monday.

Some of the bus line's rivals have revised or are reviewing their longstanding policies. But Peter Pan remains concerned about the potential for child trafficking on its buses, Crean said.

The company is a member of Truckers Against Trafficking, an industry group formed to fight human trafficking, as well as a similar regional effort by businesses in western Massachusetts.

"It would be contradictory for us not to allow them on, especially if it could result in stopping a young child from being trafficked," Crean said. "I don't think we'll look at this issue any different now, whether it's Border Patrol or other law enforcement."

The company wasn't able to provide an estimate for how many times in recent years immigration officials have boarded the company's buses.

But Crean said it was "not

frequent," given the company's routes are concentrated on transit between major Northeast cities including Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Greyhound, the nation's largest bus company, said last month it would stop allowing Border Patrol agents to board its buses without a warrant. New Hampshire-based Concord Coach Lines, which connects communities in New Hampshire and Maine with Boston and New York City, followed suit Friday. The announcements came after The Associated Press reported on a U.S. Customs and Border Protection memo saying its agents can't board private buses without the consent of the bus company.

Greyhound and other companies had previously insisted they had no choice but to allow the immigration checks even if they didn't like them.

The American Civil Liberties Union has been calling on motorcoach companies to allow Border Patrol agents onto their buses only if they have a warrant, noting that the agency has been stepping up enforcement beyond the country's immediate borders in recent years. "Peter Pan Bus Lines is in the business of transporting its passengers safely from place to place," the civil rights group's New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont chapters said in a joint letter to the company in 2018. □

Quarantined U.S. cruise ship passengers released in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dozens of U.S. passengers who were moved to a Texas air base after potentially being exposed to the coronavirus on a cruise ship were released Tuesday and allowed to go home, a day after local leaders declared a public health emergency and sought to delay the process so that more patient testing could be done.

More than 120 passengers who were moved two weeks ago from a Diamond Princess cruise ship stranded in Japan and kept in quarantine on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio were released "in an orderly way to minimize potential exposure to the San Antonio community," according to a statement issued by city officials. Many were bused to San Antonio International Airport, where they were escorted to ticket counters and through security. Others who live in Texas were escorted to car rental counters.

The release was originally scheduled for Monday but was delayed by a lawsuit filed by the city. San Antonio officials had wanted additional assurances that none of the released passengers had tested positive for the new coronavirus, after a woman was mistakenly released from quarantine over the weekend despite testing positive for it.

A federal judge denied the city's request for a temporary restraining order, though, leading to the release of 122 passengers late Monday and on Tues-



A man in a white hat shakes hands with people at San Antonio International Airport Tuesday, March 3, 2020 as he gets off a bus that arrived from JBSA-Lackland.

Associated Press

day. Seven passengers were kept in quarantine at the air base for various reasons, Laura Mayes, a city spokeswoman, told The Associated Press.

Terri Feil, of Houston, said she and her husband, David Feil, were among at least four of the passengers who were released late Monday after officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they were free to go.

"We were jumping up and down for joy," Feil said. The couple's son drove from Houston to pick them up. "We were not going to give one person a chance to change their mind," Feil said. The Feils, who boarded the ship Jan. 6 for a 29-day cruise, said they'd had their temperatures taken every day for weeks and showed no symptoms. Being isolated from family and other passengers "was like a nightmare you just

kept waking up to each and every day," she said.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, who had said that only passengers who were symptom-free for the entire 14-day quarantine period would be released Tuesday, issued a statement saying he was "comfortable that the plan as presented will minimize the risk of exposure."

"The release will be coordinated, not prolonged over several days, and passengers will not stay in local hotels and will go directly to the airport," Nirenberg said. The patient who was released over the weekend visited a local mall and the airport before she was brought back into isolation once the positive test was discovered, city officials said. There have not been any known cases of the illness being transmitted in the community, Nirenberg said. □

Greens, Thunberg say EU climate law lacks ambition



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen rings a bell to signal the start of a weekly College of Commissioners meeting at the EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Climate activists and Green members of the European Parliament are urging the European Union to be more ambitious as the bloc gets ready to unveil plans for a climate law to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero by mid-century.

While the Greens urged the 27-nation bloc to raise its 2030 climate targets, a group of 34 youth climate activists, including Greta

Thunberg, wrote an open letter Tuesday to EU leaders explaining why they think the planned law is "a surrender."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who has put climate change at the top of her priorities and pledged to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050, will present her plans on Wednesday. To add luster to the event, she has invited Thunberg to discuss the climate legislation with

her and EU commissioners. In light of the tone of the letter, it's unlikely that Thunberg will only sit and watch. "Any climate law or policy that is not based on the current best available science and does not include the global aspect of equity or climate justice — principles at the very heart of the Paris Agreement — will do more harm than good," the group said. "Such a law sends a strong signal that real, sufficient action is being taken when in fact it's not."

The group stressed that instead of setting long-term goals, the EU should focus on the "CO2 budget which applies for today."

Such CO2 budgets are used to measure the additional emissions that can enter the atmosphere without global warming exceeding a certain level. World leaders agreed five years ago in Paris to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally no more than 1.5 C (2.7 F) by the end of the century. But scientists say countries will miss both of those goals by

a wide margin unless drastic steps are taken to begin cutting greenhouse gas emissions this year.

"Distant net-zero emission targets will mean absolutely nothing if we just continue to ignore the carbon dioxide budget — which applies for today, not a far-away future," the climate activists said.

"If high emissions continue like now, even for a few years, that remaining budget will soon be completely used up."

According to a leaked draft of the proposals establishing the 2050 goal, the European Commission is proposing a mechanism for regularly raising the EU's emissions reduction target over the next three decades, but there is no plan for an increase of the EU's overall emissions goal for 2030.

In the draft, the European Commission said it will review the EU's current target of a 40% greenhouse gas reduction and "explore options for a new 2030 target of 50% to 55% emission reductions compared with

1990 levels."

Both environmental group Greenpeace and Green lawmakers in the European Parliament say that delaying an upgraded 2030 target will have damaging political consequences.

Michael Bloss, a lawmaker with the German Green Party, said it's essential that the 2030 target should be fixed well ahead of the U.N. climate talks that will be held in Glasgow in November if Europe wants to apply pressure on big-emitting countries such as China.

"We need our European goal published as soon as possible," he said Tuesday.

"The commission's delaying tactics in putting forward the updated 2030 target is irresponsible. Emissions must be reduced by at least 65% by 2030 and could should be phased out by 2030 at the latest if we are to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement."

Greenpeace said by failing to include a 2030 target, "there is a very real risk that the EU could go empty handed to the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow." □

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Ukraine's prime minister submits resignation, lawmakers say

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Lawmakers in Ukraine said Tuesday the parliament is gearing up for a vote to accept the resignation of the nation's prime minister.

Members of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Servant of the People party that dominates the parliament said Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk has submitted his letter of resignation.

They said the party decided to accept Honcharuk's resignation and replace him with Denys Shmygal in a vote scheduled for Wednesday.

There was no immediate comment from Zelenskyy or Honcharuk.

Shmygal, who was named deputy prime minister last

month, had previously served as head of the regional administration in the western Ivano-Frankivsk region.

Honcharuk first offered his resignation in January after he was caught on tape saying Zelenskyy — a former sitcom star with no previous political experience — knows nothing about the economy. Zelenskyy then called the situation "unpleasant" but asked Honcharuk to stay on the job.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted Honcharuk now to step down. Trump was impeached in December on two counts by the Democratic-run House, but Republican-run Senate acquitted him on both counts. □



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AP EXPLAINS: The new migration crisis at Europe's borders

By **ANDREW WILKS** and **NICHOLAS PAPHITIS**

ANKARA (AP) — Facing a potential wave of nearly a million people fleeing fighting in northern Syria, Turkey has thrown open its borders with Greece to thousands of refugees and other migrants trying to enter Europe, and has threatened to send "millions" more. Greece responded by closing the land border, rushing in military and police reinforcements, and tried to stop migrant boats attempting the short but perilous crossing from the Turkish coast to its eastern islands. Human rights organizations have called for urgent action to stop the situation from deteriorating further, warning of an unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Here is a look at the situation at the border, and at whether this the beginning of another migration crisis for Europe.

WHO ARE THE MIGRANTS GATHERED AT THE GREEK BORDER?

Turkey hosts 4 million refugees, some 3.6 million of them from Syria. Previously, their movement inside Turkey was strictly regulated and under a 2016 deal with the European Union, Turkey tightened border controls. Since Ankara announced last week that it would not impede those seeking to enter Europe, thousands of Afghans, Iranians, Syrians, Pakistanis and others from Africa and Asia have rushed to try their luck. Although the push ostensibly stems from the conflict to Turkey's south, Greek officials say very few of the recent arrivals are Syrians. Most of those arrested Monday were Afghans, Pakistanis and Moroccans. Figures from January, before the intensified fighting in Syria, show 35 percent of



Migrants arrive at the village of Skala Sikaminias, on the Greek island of Lesbos, after crossing on a dinghy the Aegean sea from Turkey on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

those who entered Greece from Turkey were Afghans. Syrians accounted for 14 percent.

HOW MANY HAVE CROSSED INTO GREECE?

By late Tuesday, Greek authorities had arrested and charged 218 people with illegal entry after crossing the land border with Turkey. About 26,500 attempts to pass have been thwarted since Saturday, although the pressure seemed to be slackening both on land and at sea. About 520 arrived on the Greek islands in the 24 hours up to Tuesday morning, down from nearly 1,000 a day earlier. According to the U.N.'s International Organization of Migration, 13,000 had gathered at the 212-kilometer (132-mile) border by Saturday evening. Turkey,

meanwhile, says that more than 100,000 refugees have left its territory but there is no evidence to support this claim. Uneasy NATO allies Greece and Turkey are historic regional rivals who came close to war three times in the past half-century, and even before this crisis relations were tense over undersea exploration rights.

WHY HAS ERDOGAN OPENED THE GATES?

Turkey has long complained about the lack of support it receives for shouldering the burden of caring for the world's largest refugee population. Despite the promise of 6 billion euros to pay for services for Syrians, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants to renegotiate the deal with the EU. He says Tur-

key has spent \$40 billion to date on hosting refugees. Ankara also seeks support for its policy in Syria, where it opposes Syrian President Bashar Assad and Kurdish fighters linked to the PKK, which has fought a 35-year insurgency inside Turkey. Erdogan wants to use some territory seized from the Kurds in October to resettle refugees from Turkey but the plan has met with little international support.

COULD THIS BE 2015 ALL OVER AGAIN?

In 2015, a million refugees reached Europe, crossing mainly from Turkey to Greece, and to a lesser degree from countries such as Libya to Italy. Although Erdogan said Monday that "millions" would soon be waiting to cross the Greek border, EU border states

such as Greece and Bulgaria have quickly mobilized police, border guards and the military to deal with the scenario and seem better prepared to halt large-scale land crossings than in 2015. Sea crossings, however, are much harder to stop. With the Turkish coast guard doing nothing to halt migrant boats heading for the Greek islands, once the flimsy, overcrowded vessels are inside Greek waters they can't be turned back. Very often, their occupants need to be rescued from sinking or crippled boats. Late last year arrivals in Greece were at their highest level since 2016, even before Turkey removed its border controls, and the EU fears a repeat of the crisis that triggered divisions among member states.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR GREECE?

Even before the current crisis, Greece was struggling to cope with tens of thousands of migrants who had entered from Turkey. Most want to continue to more prosperous EU countries such as Germany, but are stuck in Greece following border shutdowns in countries further along their route. Island migrant camps are many times above capacity — more than 20,000 people are on Lesbos alone — and living conditions there are dire. Under the EU-Turkey deal, new arrivals must stay on the islands until their asylum bids are processed, but the lengthy asylum process has led to a big backlog. Island residents are running out of patience after five years of bearing the brunt of Europe's migrant influx, and Greek government efforts last week to build new detention camps on Lesbos and Chios provoked riots on the islands. □

In her 1st official statement, Kim's sister slams S. Korea

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— In her first known official statement, the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday leveled diatribes and insults on South Korea for protesting over her country's latest live-fire exercises.

Believed to be in her early 30s, Kim Yo Jong is in charge of propaganda affairs and has frequently appeared at her brother's major public events including summits with U.S. President Donald Trump and other regional leaders. But her statement carried by state media, the first in kind, indicated her political status has been further elevated.

In the statement, she criticized South Korea's presidential office of Blue House for expressing strong concerns over the North's firing drills and urging it to stop such an act that doesn't contribute to efforts to reduce military animosities.

"As far as I know, the South side is also fond of joint military exercises and it is pre-occupied with all the disgusting acts like purchasing ultra-modern military hard-



In this March 2, 2019, file photo, Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un attends a wreath-laying ceremony at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Associated Press

ware," Kim Yo Jong said. "They meant they need to get militarily prepared but we should be discouraged from military exercises. Such a gangster-like assertion can never be expected from those with normal way of thinking."

Describing the Blue House as "a mere child" and "a burnt child dreading fire," she went on to say that "How come can all its words and acts be so perfectly foolish in detail."

Kim Yo Jong still didn't mention by name liberal South

Korean President Moon Jae-in, whom she met several times. She only said: "The South side's response is so regretful and disappointing but it is somewhat fortunate that it was not direct statement of the president."

Earlier Tuesday, state media said Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire rocket artillery exercise in an apparent reference to the two short-range ballistic missile launches reported by South Korea's military a day earlier. On Saturday, North Korea said Kim Jong Un also guided an artillery drill aimed at testing the combat readiness of military units.

The back-to-back firing exercises were an apparent show of force by Kim, who had earlier vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent and warned of "shocking action" over now-stalled nuclear negotiations with Trump. The latest firing drills were his first weapons tests since late November.

Kim Yo Jong's statement was issued in her capacity as a first vice-department director of the Workers Party's Central Committee. She also serves as an alternate member of the North's powerful Politburo and a member of the rubber-stamp parliament. South Korean officials and experts say she's virtually the North's top propaganda official. □

China denounces U.S. cap on reporter numbers as prejudicial

BEIJING (AP) — China on Tuesday denounced a move by the Trump administration to cap the number of Chinese state-run media journalists who can work in the United States as "based on the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice."

The State Department announced Monday that a total of 100 journalists from five outlets would be given visas, citing in part China's increasingly harsh surveillance, harassment and intimidation of American and other foreign journalists in China for the move.

The decision "severely interrupted Chinese media's normal reporting tasks in the United States (and) seriously tarnished Chinese media's reputation," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Tuesday.

"Based on the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice, the U.S. State

Department suppressed Chinese media agencies with political means in the United States for unexplained reasons," Zhao said at a daily briefing. China reserves the right to take further measures in response, he said.

The U.S. announcement followed the expulsion last month by China of three Wall Street Journal reporters over an opinion column headline that the foreign ministry called racist, and the release of survey results by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China showing a continuing deterioration in working conditions for overseas media in China.

The FCCC report found that Chinese authorities have "weaponized visas" for foreign media by issuing press credentials with shortened terms of validity to a dozen journalists in 2019, in



Oct. 10, 2017, file photo, journalists raise their hands in the White House press room during the daily briefing, in Washington.

Associated Press

addition to expelling four since August. It called that "one of the most brazen attempts in the post-Mao Zedong era to influence foreign news organizations and to punish those whose work the Chinese government deems unacceptable."

The U.S. said it is not planning to place any restric-

tions on the content of Chinese media but that it is seeking "reciprocity" and a "level playing field."

The five Chinese outlets, including the Xinhua News Agency and China Global Television Network, currently employ about 160 Chinese citizens in the U.S. There are about 75 Americans and other foreigners

authorized to work for U.S. news outlets inside China, according to the White House.

Last month, the administration designated Xinhua, CGTN and three others as foreign missions, requiring them to register their properties and employees in the U.S. The State Department said that was in recognition of the fact that "they are effectively controlled" by the Chinese government.

Chinese citizens working for other media organizations in the United States are unaffected by the cap, the State Department said. China's ruling Communist Party and state outlets now dominate Chinese-language media in the U.S. and have made inroads into the struggling mainstream English-language press through vast ad purchases and the placement of newspaper inserts. □

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Turkey downs Syrian fighter jet in northwest Idlib

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey shot down a Syrian fighter jet in Syria's Idlib province Tuesday, marking the third such incident in as many days, as steady clashes between the two national armies continued over a Russia-backed Syrian government offensive near the Turkish border. State-run Syrian media said troops shot down a Turkish drone, keeping up a clash in the skies over the north-western province that has gone on for days and signaled a new stage in the 9-year-old war.

Ahead of a much-anticipated summit later this week between the presidents of Turkey and Russia, the two main power brokers in Syria, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov again laid the blame for the escalation squarely on Turkey.

Russian officials have said they hold Turkey responsible for the collapse of a cease-fire agreement reached in Sochi, Russia in 2018, saying Ankara had not held up its end to rein in militants who continued attacking Syrian and Russian targets.

"The solution to the problem lies in implementing the (Sochi) agreements. They are not being implemented," Lavrov said after meeting with his Finnish colleague Pekka Haavisto in Helsinki on Tuesday. He expressed hope that the scheduled Thursday meeting between Russian and Turkish presidents in Mos-



Photo taken on Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

cow will change the situation.

Keeping up the pressure on the battlefield, Turkey's military downed a warplane belonging to Syrian government forces — the third time they have done so since Sunday. The Syrian military said Turkish forces targeted a warplane with a missile as it was carrying out operations against "terrorist groups" in the rebel-held Idlib region, causing it to crash northwest of the town of Maaret al-Numan. The fate of the crew was not clear.

Turkey has sent thousands of troops into Idlib to support the opposition fighters holed up there, but hasn't been able to roll back the government's advance. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he hopes to broker a cease-fire in Syria later this week when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

But the Russian-backed offensive into the country's last rebel-held area has led to increasingly frequent clashes between the Syrian and Turkish armies that have killed dozens on both sides. It has also threatened a collapse in Turkish cooperation with Moscow, a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

A Turkish soldier was killed and another wounded Monday night, Turkey's Defense Ministry said, raising to 55 the number of Turkish losses this month in clashes with Russian-backed Syrian forces. The death toll includes 33 Turkish soldiers killed Thursday in a single airstrike. The government's offensive has also sparked one of the Syrian war's worst humanitarian crises. Almost a million Syrian civilians have fled north toward the sealed Turkish border, overwhelming camps already crowded above capacity. □



In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 a man makes his way through a Johannesburg street with collected recyclable materials to be sold as scrap.

Hit by power shortages, South Africa's economy in recession

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**
JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Widespread power cuts are blamed for pushing South Africa's economy, the continent's most industrialized, into recession, according to official statistics released Tuesday.

The South African economy shrank by 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2019 from the previous three-month period, after contracting by 0.8% in the third quarter, according to Stats SA. A recession is commonly defined as two consecutive quarters of economic decline.

South Africa's nationwide power blackouts are blamed for the larger than expected decline in the fourth quarter. The state-owned power utility, Eskom, has been unable to meet demand and has had to implement rotating cuts in electricity to residences,

factories, mines and businesses.

Eskom's "inability to meet demand on a sustained basis is a key reason for South Africa's very slow growth record of just 0.9% a year in 2015 19," said Pat Thaker, the Economist Intelligence Unit's regional director for the Middle East and Africa. "Eskom is, in effect, capping South Africa's growth potential and preventing a significant rebound."

South Africa's economy grew by just 0.2% in 2019 and 0.8% in 2018, according to the official statistics. Seven out of 10 of the country's sectors contracted in the fourth quarter, including agriculture, which dropped by 7.6%, manufacturing, which dropped 1.8%, and transport, which declined 7.2%.

South Africa's economic growth forecast for 2020 has been cut to 0.9%. □

Mexican clerical abuse victims skeptical of Vatican mission

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Victims of clerical sex abuse have expressed skepticism over a Vatican investigative commission that will collect statements and information about abuse in Mexico, though most said they would meet with Pope Francis' investigators.

"Only by speaking with them can you demand results," said Biani López-Antúnez, who was abused by a Legion of Christ school director in Cancun between the ages of 8 and 10 years old. "The results of this visit must be measured only based on the facts, the reports, because I'm already tired of the fake action that operates at all levels of the Church."

The Vatican announced Tuesday that two investigators — Charles Scicluna, archbishop of Malta and deputy secretary for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Jordi Bertomeu — will be in Mexico City March 20-27. They will meet with bishops, leaders of religious orders and victims who want



Archbishop Charles Scicluna, left, and Spanish Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu attend a meeting with the Catholic community at the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Osorno, Chile, in this Saturday, June 16, 2018 file photo.

Associated Press

to speak with them. They promise confidentiality. Mexico, which has the second highest number of Catholics in the world, has been accumulating cases of abuse and cover-ups for years. Meanwhile more and more victims like

López-Antúnez are speaking up in the face of Vatican claims of "zero tolerance" to say that they are still waiting for justice. The Mexican Episcopal Conference says the commission is coming at its request. It is made up by the

same church officials who went to Chile in 2018 to investigate one case and returned with 2,600 pages of statements from more than 60 victims. It led Pope Francis to ask forgiveness and led to legal action. "There has to be interven-

tion from some other external authority to determine criminal responsibility because if it is only the ecclesiastic commission, it's very difficult for something to happen," said Alberto Athié, a former Mexican priest who has campaigned for more than 20 years for victims of clerical abuse. If not, the commission could become just another example of the Vatican going through the motions but not getting to the bottom of it.

For that reason, Athié believes a proposal before the Mexican Senate to create an independent investigative commission is critical, because it could "reconstruct the truth and turn over to the proper authorities all of those responsible," including the abusers and those who covered up their actions.

The number of victims in Mexico is unknown.

The best known case in Mexico is that of Rev. Marcial Maciel, founder of the Legion of Christ religious order. □

Venezuelan official denies threat to Guaidó as a 'lie'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A powerful ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday denied any type of armed threats against U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó as shown in a widely circulated photograph.

The image taken by a member of Guaidó's press team depicts an armed man in street clothes and a motorcycle helmet pointing a pistol at a group of people led by Guaidó during a Saturday street rally. Opposition leaders marching with Guaidó said that socialist hardliners loyal to Maduro also opened fire to intimidate opposition supporters at the event in the central city of Barquisimeto, injuring a 16-year-old boy who was shot in the leg.

However, Maduro ally and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello in a news conference Monday called the photo a "lie" distributed

by the opposition in an attempt to trick Guaidó followers into thinking his life is in danger.

"He're an alleged gunman, an armed man," Cabello said, holding up a copy of the photo. "Everyone is calm... and Guaidó keeps on talking."

Cabello said that the boy was injured a long distance from Guaidó, dismissing it as an unrelated incident.

According to opposition leaders interviewed by The Associated Press on Saturday, about 200 armed civilians and government security forces ambushed marchers led by Guaidó. They said several others were roughed up as the Maduro loyalists harassed participants.

The AP was not present at the rally so was unable to verify the account made by either side. The photo of the gunman aiming at Guaidó was provided to



In this photo released by the Juan Guaidó's Press Office, an unidentified man aims a gun at a crowd as opposition leader Juan Guaidó, center right in light blue shirt, meets with supporters during a rally in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

the AP by the opposition leader's team.

The confusing incident is believed to be the first time pro-government vigilantes known as colectivos have aimed a weapon at Guaidó, who the U.S. and more than 50 other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader follow-

ing Maduro's re-election in 2018 in a race the opposition says was marred by irregularities.

It was the first public trip Guaidó has taken outside the capital of Caracas since returning from an international tour to rally support, including a White House meeting with Presi-

dent Donald Trump, who invited Guaidó as a special guest to his annual State of the Union address.

The incident was widely condemned in the international community by the European Union, the Organization of American States and the Lima Group, which integrates a dozen countries in the region to find a way out of the Venezuelan crisis.

Guaidó has called for a demonstration on March 10, when the opposition will attempt to retake control of their legislative building in the center of Caracas. Armed civilians and security forces have forcefully blocked opposition lawmakers from entering the building since January.

Also Monday, Venezuelan authorities said that they arrested two managers of the state-run oil firm PDVSA, accused of providing internal information to the U.S. □

LOCAL



Children's artwork Global Money Week Aruba handed over to Fundashon di Museo Aruba

ORANJESTAD — In fostering financial education in Aruba over the past two years, the Central Bank of Aruba has led the initiative to annually organize a national financial education program in the form of Global Money Week Aruba (GMWA). In order to organize this national financial education program, which is directed towards children, the CBA collaborates with local partners such as Aruba Bank N.V., Banco di Caribe, Caribbean Mercantile Bank, CIBC First Caribbean, Ennia, the Gov-

ernment of Aruba (Futura & IDEA), Guardian Group, Kiwanis Club of Aruba, Qredits, RBC, and Setar N.V., as well as many other collaborators.

By way of an interactive "financial treasure hunt", more than 50 elementary school classes completed the financial education route in downtown San Nicolas in 2018 and 2019. The children visited 7 different stations that follow the financial cycle; Discover, Learn, Earn, Save, Spend, Share and Innovate. At each station, the children



touched upon a topic, and learned in an interactive way about the different characteristics of the florin banknotes, the purposes and uses of money, as well as how to make responsible choices in financial matters.

During both years the children also participated in a Global Money Week Aruba art project at the SAVE station, which is hosted by Guardian Group, CIBC First Caribbean, and ENNIA. The children collectively created an art work made out of coins. On December 18th 2019, this art work was officially handed over to Fundashon di Museo Aruba (FMA) as a symbol of gratitude and collaboration between the partners of GMWA.

Globally, the importance of financial education is acknowledged as imperative to personal financial well-being, as well as a necessary condition for developing a sustainable and inclusive society. The increasing relevance of financial education as an important life skill, particularly for the next generation, is featured prominently on national agenda's as observed by the organization of the Global Money Week.

For more information about GMWA and our plans and



initiatives for 2020, which this year will take place during the week of March 23-27 in downtown Oran-

jestad, please visit and follow our Facebook page 'Global Money Week Aruba'. □

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Barry and Connie Robb from Steubenville Ohio**.

They wrote:

Aruba to me is "Life in the Slow Lane"! □



The NEW Tierra del Sol Restaurant: A fresh contemporary scenic surprise



NOORD — The wave of Caribbean, European and American flavors. Delight in fresh cuisine where you can be sure to dine with the best panorama of the island. Surrounded by the golf greens, blue ocean and romantic setting of Tierra del Sols resort pool

and cool new restaurant you are in for a successful date, family gathering, work meeting Just any occasion. That is the great thing about the newly re-opened restaurant at Tierra del Sol: it is for everyone and every occasion!

They call it Aruba's first "Premium Casual Dining" experience. It does do right to that concept but there is so much more to it. **The restaurant at Tierra del Sol** transformed into a place of light, fresh looks, elegant though laid-back setting and the choice between inside and outside dining. Those two areas flow into each other in a natural way. Families with children dine on the big tables, some business men take a quick bite inside and a group of golfers enjoy a meal after their game. It is a fantastic concept that is accessible for all without losing its essence: great food in a stylish interior design.



Inspired by nature the restaurant is letting in the outside while the menu reflects what guests are looking for nowadays: variation, adults & kid's choices, great prices with a friendly service.

12 Appetizers, 3 soups, 8 salad bowls, homemade pastas (5) and pizzas (4), 13 wraps- sandwiches- burgers, 8 entrees (2 sides included), a kids menu and of course sweets make up

for an extensive menu with something for everyone. A beverage menu offers 11 beers and drafts, homemade sangria, bubbles and wines, premium cocktails and spirits. You can keep coming back and try something else every time.

"Casual dining is hot in the United States now because people do not always want to dress up, sit for hours on a table and get a big check presented at the end. We give an answer to the need of quality food in a modern, cool environment with friendly prices and service," says Marketing & Sales Executive, Ghislaine de Windt K. In short: you can't go wrong, come over and try it out. ☐



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'Grazie mille' for choosing Aruba

NOORD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Salvatore & Rosalia Agrusa living in the United States, but originally from Italy, and their daughter Francesca Biundo who was accompanied by her husband Pietro Biundo as well, and all were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

Couple Francesca & Pietro brought their four kids down; Antonino Biundo, Caterina Biundo, Salvatore Biundo, and Rosalia

Buindo, and all their kids were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. Couple Salvatore & Rosalia Agrusa not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought children, grandchildren, friends and many more to our beautiful island.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

Richardson together with their wonderful neighbor Rosemarie Leest put together this honoring for this great tight-knit family. Upon arrival at the Agrusa's and Biundo's family home in Boegoeroei, Richardson presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



A smart Caribbean island can be the high-end champion

By Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

ORANJESTAD — In the Caribbean, too little attention is given to the visitor segment of high-end clientele that use private jets to come to a destination. Better not consider them tourists or treat them as tourists. Every passenger who arrives on a private jet is a potential investor in the region..., provided that the destination will meet their standards and criteria, and that they eventually fall in love with the island.

They will make the preferred destination part of their lifestyle and invest in that element of their way of life. They are repeat visitors and usually attract other personalities of their social circles to be their guest, which has a multiplying effect. They appreciate authenticity, discretion, serenity, and locations where beautification and cleanliness are taken seriously. Mediocrity and fakeness are unacceptable. Yet, they love some simplicity and a laid-back atmosphere in a luxury setting. And they're trying to find what ailing living in their country back home is.

Tourism authorities who say "hmm, yes, we also want those ALSO", are most likely not getting them. This segment does not fit in with cruise ship tourism or forms of over-tourism. This segment requires a different approach and strategy.



In the Caribbean there is a relatively small number of destinations that qualify for pursuing the development of this segment in a full out effort. Those are the ones where serious high-net-worth individuals should be able to explore the potential of a return of investment that may be different than you think; it is satisfaction and joy rather than interest rates on their capital. They have enough that already; they are looking for what is missing, a paradise resembling environment.

A safe living environment with an insignificant to zero crime rate is important to them. A stable reliable is-

land government to deal with. Not to forget a quality infrastructure. They're not looking for a highway to speed on, but they definitely don't appreciate potholes in the roads. Yet, they love a somewhat rural atmosphere. They love a natural landscape that is beautified by orange blossoming flamboyant trees and pink flowering bougainvillea bushes.

Some islands that have the potential to attract this clientele, should consider joining efforts and form a task force or action group that focuses on this segment and come up with refreshing and useful advice and suggestions. No, not a 'study group'. I hate that word 'study'. One doesn't need a heap of accumulated theory collected in a report that defends itself from being read because of its thickness. The last thing needed is a committee that wastes hours and keeps minutes. The group should definitely not be an assembled choir whose members can only sing the shanties of their own ship.

The taskforce should be an independent and impartial group and the members should consist of thinkers and movers-and-shakers with brains that are as clear

as Bohemian Crystal glass. Persons who are not afraid to express themselves in straightforward wording which may be so hot that it singes the eyebrows of the listeners.

Why would you want this clientele anyway and what is the sense of this so-called wealth tourism or high-end tourism? Finally, we are getting to the point! This is the clientele that spends approximately ten times as much per person than the average mass-tourism visitor. US\$ 800 plus for a hotel room night is not uncommon. US\$ 30,000 dollar plus for a week's villa rent is not unusual. Got it?

It is not just the positive economic impact that characterizes this segment. Since this clientele does not accept mediocrity, the island is more or less compelled to upgrade its infrastructure, facilities, and services which may contribute to an improved overall standard and quality of life of the island's community. This clientele is also willing to pay higher wages or charges for services. Just think about the saying 'success breeds success'. A word of caution though. The improvements must not become a financial burden for the 'native' members of the island community. Greed of de-

velopers must not hurt the common islander. There are a few islands where the development of this segment could be successful. However, it is necessary to prepare a strategy first. This is not a matter of opening a can of magic to have a fast food dinner on the table. This clientele does not visit vacation expos. Advertising doesn't do the trick. Articles by reputable journalists in selected glossy lifestyle magazines may be one way to attract the attention. But before anything will be published, there needs be substance to base the article on.

It is wise for these few islands to form a task force as mentioned before. But why? Why a joined effort when these islands will be competitors with the same objectives? There is no such a thing as competition. The clientele will determine what it likes and what suits it best. Since every island is different and often unique, there are choices. First attract this clientele to the region, then offer the options, and the client will decide.

Not trying to do anything about finding new ways for improving the socio-economics of an island may be called complacency, I would categorize it as "The Continuing Art of Suffering in Silence" □



About the author

Cdr. Bud Slabbaert is the Chairman and Coordinator of the Caribbean Aviation Meetup, an annual results and solution oriented conference for stakeholders of 'airlift' in the Caribbean which will be June 16-18 on St. Maarten. Mr. Slabbaert's background is accentuated by aviation business development, strategic communication, and journalism.

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 04

Art Talk

- Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied and Aruba EU desk in partnership with Unoca presents a Panel discussion about funding and the creative process of artists on Aruba. Guest speakers: Rebecca Roos, Nelson Gonzalez, Amy Lasten, Carlos Bislip, Ana Maria Hernandez, Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds president Halder Lam, Unoca president Adrienne Fraser & Aruba EU desk president Gerlien Croes.
- 6pm-9pm
- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Cas di Cultura - Aruba's Cultural Platform since 1958



Sunday 08

Full Moon Labyrinth Chanting Circle

- Join us for a Chanting Circle at the Aruba Peace Labyrinth on this magical Full Moon Friday night. We will chant sacred mantras and songs for compassion, healing and peace for ourselves, nature and Mother Earth. And express much gratitude to our Ancestors.
- Kindly bring a cushion or chair to be comfortable in the circle and maybe a sweater to stay warm!
- 7pm-8:30pm
- Aruba Peace Labyrinth
- Facebook: Aruba Peace Labyrinth

Thursday 05

'A Touch of Aruba'

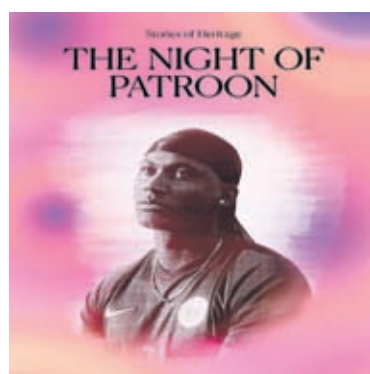
- It's showtime! Every Thursday Nico Connor together with NLG Dancers will heat up the night with the Sweetpan Music and Cultural Show.
- 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
- Facebook: Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort



Monday 09

Italy for a night at Casa Nonna

- Take a genuine trip to the most emblematic corners of Italy enjoying a 4-course menu inspired by Sicily at Casa Nonna New York
- From 5pm to 10pm
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



Friday 06

Stories Of Heritage: The Night of Patroon

- "Stories of Heritage" is a series of events where they present various projects that discusses important themes in Caribbean Culture.
- 7pm - 9pm
- Crystal Theater, Renaissance
- Facebook: Recent

Saturday 07

It's 5 o'clock somewhere

- Have you heard about the newest bar in town? The other-state-of-mind 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill opened recently. Get yourself some great energy because this will definitely make you happy.
- Open from noon
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook: 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar and Grill

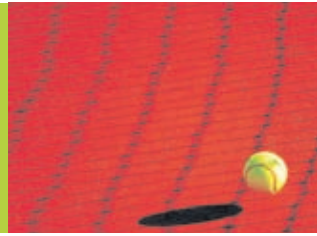


Tuesday 10

Etnia Nativa

- Explore the Native Aruban Art Gallery & Museum where all the produce and exhibit proceeds from discarded as well as recollected materials, recycled in beautiful art pieces inspired on Aruba's archaic Cultures. Anthony Croes will be delighted to give you a personal one hour tour.
- Make your appointment
- Westpunt 37-A, Noord
- Facebook: Etnia Nativa

SPORTS



The 4-letter word from Azinger that stirs Ryder Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The Ryder Cup is more than six months away, and all it took was a four-letter word from Paul Azinger to get Europe worked up over defending more than just the gold trophy.

Azinger regrets using the word, one he says he slips into speech all the time.

T-H-A-T.

The scene was Sunday at the Honda Classic, where Azinger was working as the lead analyst for NBC Sports. The context was Tommy Fleetwood of England, now the No. 10 player in the world, trying to win for the first time on the PGA Tour.

Fleetwood did not achieve this ranking by accident.

He has five European Tour victories, twice against strong fields in Abu Dhabi, another in the French Open in 2017 at Le Golf National, where a year later he would go 4-1 in the Ryder Cup. He was runner-up to Brooks Koepka at Shinnecock Hills and to Shane Lowry at Royal Portrush.

His best finish at a regular PGA Tour event was a tie for third last year at Bay Hill.

"A lot of pressure here," Azinger said on the broadcast. "You're trying to prove to everybody that you've got what it takes. These guys know, you can win all you want on that European Tour or in the international game and all that, but you have to win on the PGA Tour."

That European Tour.

BUCKS STOPPED HERE

Heat stun Bucks 105-89, holding Antetokounmpo to 13 points

Milwaukee Bucks guard George Hill (3) takes a knee to the midsection as Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic (7) goes up to shoot during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 2, 2020, in Miami.

Continued on page 22

Associated Press
Page 20

An NCAA Tournament with empty arenas? It can't be ruled out

By The Associated Press

Imagine an NCAA Tournament with no fans in the arenas.

What normally would be thought an impossibility isn't so far-fetched as the United States and the rest of the world attempt to contain the spread of the new coronavirus.

An advocacy group for college athletes has urged the NCAA to consider holding its winter sports championships with no fans, and the idea has not been dismissed out of hand.

"If you can think of it, it's something that we've gone through an analysis around," NCAA Chief Operating Officer Donald Remy told Bloomberg News on Tuesday. "We've contingency planned for all circumstances."

The NCAA declined further comment to The Associated Press on the possibility of no fans in the stands. Presumably, the games still would be televised.

The virus has sickened more than 92,000 people and killed 3,100 worldwide, the vast majority of them in China. Nine people have died in the U.S., all in Washington state. Most cases have been mild.

Also Tuesday, the NCAA announced it has established an advisory panel of medical, public health



In this Wednesday, March 18, 2015 file photo, The NCAA logo is on the court as work continues at The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh.

and epidemiology experts and NCAA schools to address the virus, also known as COVID-19. NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline will lead the group. "The NCAA is committed to conducting its championships and events in a safe and responsible manner," Remy said in a statement. "Today we are planning to conduct our championships as planned; however, we are evaluating the COVID-19 situation daily and will make decisions accordingly."

Hainline said the advisory

group will make recommendations on competition based on evolving medical protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health and state and local authorities.

"We are in daily contact with the CDC and are advising leadership on the Association's response to this outbreak," he said.

The NCAA generates nearly \$1 billion a year, most of it coming from the men's basketball tournament through media rights fees,

corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

Total attendance for the 2019 tournament was 688,753, an average of 19,132 per game. The Final Four at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis drew 72,711 for the semifinals and 72,062 for the championship game.

Attendance for the 2019 women's basketball tournament was 274,873, an average of 6,545 per game.

The men's tournament is scheduled to open March 17 and the women's tournament begins on March

20. The men's Final Four will be played the first weekend in April at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, and the women's Final Four is set for Smoothie King Center in New Orleans.

The NCAA wrestling tournament is March 19-21 at U.S. Bank Stadium, the first time the event has been held in a football stadium. The tournament is expected to break the attendance record of 113,743, set in Cleveland in 2018.

Conference basketball tournaments are set to begin next week, and the Big East, Pac-12, Mountain West, West Coast and Western Athletic conferences said in statements to the AP that they are proceeding as if their tournaments will go on but monitoring the situation.

The WAC noted that if its tournament is not completed, the tournament's No. 1 seed will advance to the NCAA Tournament as the league's automatic qualifier.

Sporting events across the globe have been canceled or contested with no spectators allowed in stadiums or arenas.

Ramogi Huma, executive director of the National College Players Association, urged the NCAA and the schools to take steps to protect athletes. □

Associated Press

Avs edge Red Wings 2-1 for 7th straight; 9 in row on road

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Gabriel Landeskog withstood a crunching hit while making a pass that sprung Logan O'Connor for a breakaway goal in the second period, and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-1 on Monday night for their season-best seventh straight victory.

Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Avalanche, who extended a franchise record with their ninth consecutive road win. Michael Hutchinson made 17 saves. Anthony Mantha had the only goal for Detroit, which

dropped to 3-18-2 in its last 23 games.

OILERS 8, PREDATORS 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Leon Draisaitl had the first four-goal game of his career and added an assist as Edmonton beat Nashville to sweep the season series. Connor McDavid scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and had four assists. Kailer Yamamoto and Josh Archibald each had a goal and an assist, and Zack Kassian also scored as Edmonton won its second straight. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Darnell Nurse had three assists

apiece.

Edmonton is second in the Pacific Division and pulled within two points of first-place Vegas with a game in hand.

Edmonton broke open a tie game by scoring three of five goals in the third in a span of 2:21.

Draisaitl, the NHL's scoring leader, got his hat trick at 8:28. Then he chased Pekka Rinne from the goalie's first start since Feb. 21 with his 43rd goal of the season at 9:55.

It was the first time Rinne, the 2018 Vezina Trophy winner, had allowed eight



Colorado Avalanche right wing Joonas Donskoi (72) tries to redirect the puck to Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jonathan Bernier (45) as Alex Biega (3) defends in the first period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 2, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

goals in a game.

Roman Josi and Calle Jarnkrok scored 14 seconds apart, and Nick Bonino also had a goal for Nashville. The Predators remain

in the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference thanks to two games in hand on Winnipeg and Arizona, with all three at 72 points. □

Heat stifle Bucks, get 2nd win of season over NBA leaders

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Jae Crowder and Jimmy Butler each scored 18 points, Goran Dragic added 15 and the Miami Heat beat the Milwaukee Bucks 105-89 on Wednesday night -- moving to 2-0 against the NBA's best team.

Bam Adebayo had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who improved to 39-22 and matched their win total from last season with 19 games remaining. Kendrick Nunn had 13 points and Kelly Olynyk added 11 for Miami.

It was a season low in points for the Bucks, set for the second straight day after Milwaukee managed only 93 in a win Sunday at Charlotte. The difference was from the 3-point line: Miami was 18 for 37, Milwaukee was 7 for 34.

Brook Lopez led the Bucks (52-9) with 21 points. Giannis Antetokounmpo matched a season-low with 13 points on 6-for-18 shooting, and grabbed 15 rebounds.

KNICKS 125, ROCKETS 123

NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie guard RJ Barrett tied his season high with 27 points and New York snapped Houston's six-game winning streak.

The Knicks pummeled the small-ball Rockets on the boards and in the paint to make a successful first impression in front of Leon Rose, the longtime player



Miami Heat forward Jae Crowder (99) goes up to shoot against Milwaukee Bucks forward Ersan Ilyasova during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 2, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

agent who was hired Monday as team president. Julius Randle added 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who held on after building a 21-point lead. They ended a nine-game home losing streak against the Rockets with their first victory over them since

Jan. 26, 2009 — when Houston coach Mike D'Antoni was on the other sideline. James Harden had 35 points and eight assists for the Rockets. Russell Westbrook had 24 points and nine rebounds but missed a pull-up jumper on Houston's final attempt.

PACERS 116, SPURS 111

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Malcolm Brogdon scored 26 points, T.J. Warren added 23 and Indiana rallied to beat San Antonio after blowing a 15-point lead. Indiana won its fourth straight, moving into a fifth-place tie with Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference. Patty Mills scored 24 points to lead San Antonio and Trey Lyles added 20. The Spurs, who have lost eight of 11, dropped four games behind the Memphis Grizzlies for eighth place in the West.

BULLS 109, MAVERICKS 107

CHICAGO (AP) — Coby White scored 19 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 18 in his return from a broken left foot and Chicago hung on to beat Dallas when Luka Doncic's desperation heave bounced off the rim. Denzel Valentine added a season-high 17 points and the Bulls won for just the second time in 12 games even though leading scorer Zach LaVine sat out with a strained left quadriceps. Tim Hardaway Jr. led Dallas with 26 points. Doncic scored 23 after sitting out Sunday's win at Minnesota because of a sprained left thumb.

GRIZZLIES 127, HAWKS 88

ATLANTA (AP) — Gorgui Dieng had 17 points and 10 rebounds, leading nine Memphis scorers in double figures, and the Grizzlies

pulled away in the second half to beat cold-shooting Atlanta.

Memphis, trying to protect its No. 8 spot in the Western Conference playoff field, has won two straight following five consecutive losses. Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points with 15 rebounds for the Grizzlies. Josh Jackson had 15 points and Ja Morant scored 13.

Trae Young led Atlanta with 19 points on 5-of-17 shooting. The Hawks were denied their first three-game winning streak of the season.

JAZZ 126, CAVALIERS 113

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored 28 points, Rudy Gobert added 20 and Utah began a four-game trip with a win over Cleveland, which dressed only nine players and used just seven.

Donovan Mitchell had 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Jazz made 20 3-pointers while staying in the fifth Western Conference playoff spot.

Collin Sexton scored a career-high 32 points and Kevin Love scored 22 for Cleveland, which dropped to 3-4 under coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

TRAIL BLAZERS 130, MAGIC 107

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — CJ McCollum scored 41 points and Gary Trent Jr. added 24 to help Portland run away from Orlando. □



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving grabs his leg after he was injured during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kyrie Irving underwent surgery Tuesday to repair the injured right shoulder that

ended his first season with the Brooklyn Nets after just 20 games. The Nets said the proce-

Nets' Kyrie Irving has surgery for right shoulder injury

cedure to relieve the impingement was performed by Dr. Riley Williams III at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The team said Irving is expected to make a full recovery.

Irving began having trouble with the shoulder as he worked to get back in shape after another injury in the preseason. The pain worsened in November, early in the regular season, and he missed 26 games before returning in January. Irving got a cortisone shot

on Dec. 24 but acknowledged that surgery still might be necessary. The decision to have it was reached last month on the night the Nets returned from the All-Star break.

He finished with averages of 27.4 points, 6.4 assists and 5.2 rebounds, and became the first player in franchise history to have multiple 50-point games in a season. He also missed time because of a sprained right knee.

Irving signed with Brooklyn

in July along with Kevin Durant, who is expected to miss the entire season while recovering from surgery to repair his Achilles tendon.

The Nets are trying to hang onto a playoff spot without them, sitting in eighth place in the Eastern Conference at 26-33 after four straight losses.

Brooklyn plays Tuesday night in Boston, where Irving spent the last two seasons. He missed both visits this season because of the shoulder injury. □

NBA to players: Avoid high-fives as virus concern grows

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The NBA has told players to avoid high-fiving fans and strangers and avoid taking any item for autographs, the league's latest response in its ongoing monitoring of the coronavirus crisis that has spread to most corners of the planet.

The league, in a memo sent to teams on Sunday and obtained Monday by The Associated Press, offered 10 recommendations to players with hopes of decreasing risks of getting the virus — among them, not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph seekers.

The NBA also told teams that it is consulting "with infectious disease experts, including the Centers for Disease Control" and infectious disease researchers at Columbia University in New York.

"We are also in regular communication with each other, NBA teams including team physicians and athletic trainers, other professional sports leagues, and of course, many of

you," the league wrote in its memo to teams, their physicians and athletic training staffs. ESPN first reported on the contents of the memo. Some players are already heeding the advice.

"Corona," Bobby Portis of the New York Knicks said as he offered some fist-bump greetings on Monday night before his team faced the Houston Rockets.

Jimmy Butler of the Miami Heat said he wasn't necessarily worried or thinking about avoiding high-fives. "I don't think about any of that," Butler said. "I'm still going to be who I am. We're still going to be who we are."

Portland guard CJ McCollum said in a tweet on Saturday that he is taking the matter seriously, saying he is "officially taking a break from signing autographs until further notice."

"You just have to be careful," McCollum said Monday night in Orlando. "Obviously it's affecting people, especially people who are displaying weaker immune systems and people over 60. You've got to check yourself and wash your



Utah Jazz forward Bojan Bogdanovic (44) high-fives a fan after shooting the game-winning three point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

hands, try to reduce contact with outsiders and outside germs."

McCollum has tweeted or retweeted several virus-related posts in the last couple days.

"The coronavirus remains a situation with the potential to change rapidly — the NBA and the Players Association will continue to work with leading experts and team physicians to provide up-to-date information and recommended practices that should be followed to

prevent the spread of the coronavirus," the league said in the memo.

Many of the tips offered by the NBA fell under common-sense level of best practices when it comes to illness prevention: avoiding contact with people who are sick, staying home when feeling ill, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces. The league also suggested players make sure they "are up to date with all routine vaccinations, in-

cluding the flu vaccine." The worldwide death toll topped 3,000 on Monday, and the number of those infected rose to about 89,000 in 70 countries on every continent but Antarctica. In the U.S., the virus has been blamed for six deaths, all in Washington state.

"Containment is feasible and must remain the top priority for all countries," World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. □

Virus forces Basketball Africa League to push back season

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Concerns surrounding the coronavirus have forced the postponement of the inaugural Basketball Africa League season, which was to start later this month. No rescheduling plan was announced.

A total of seven African nations — Egypt, Senegal, Nigeria, Angola, Tunisia, Morocco and Rwanda — were to play host to games during the inaugural season.

The virus, COVID-19, has been found in four of those countries so far: Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal and Nigeria. The first confirmed case in Senegal was announced just this week, and with

the first BAL games to be played there, the league had little choice but to call off plans to play.

"Following the recommendation of the Senegalese government regarding the escalating health concerns related to the coronavirus, the BAL's inaugural season will be postponed," Basketball Africa League President Amadou Gallo Fall said. "I am disappointed we are not able to tip off this historic league as scheduled."

Fall's statement only said the league would be launched "at a later date." Fears over the virus have wreaked havoc on countless sporting events around the globe, some canceled



A traveller wearing a mask at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

altogether, others being played with no fans present. It has prompted concerns that the Tokyo Olympics will not be held as planned this summer, though offi-

cials have stressed that the games are still slated to go on — for now.

"We are going to have the games on the 24th of July," International Olym-

pic Committee spokesman Mark Adams said at a briefing.

The news of the African league's postponement came one day after the NBA told players to avoid high-fiving fans and strangers and avoid taking any item for autographs, the league's latest response in its ongoing monitoring of the viral outbreak.

The league, in a memo sent to teams on Sunday and obtained Monday by The Associated Press, offered 10 recommendations to players with hopes of decreasing risks of getting the virus — among them, not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph seekers. □

McEnroe not counting out Federer out after latest surgery

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

BOSTON (AP) — Hall of Famer John McEnroe doesn't think tennis has seen the last of Roger Federer playing at an elite level following the 38-year-old's recent knee surgery.

Federer announced last month that he will miss the French Open and at least three other tournaments while he recuperates. Federer indicated he would return by Wimbledon in late June.

The Swiss star has spent more weeks ranked No. 1 than any player and owns a men's record 20 Grand Slam titles. He currently is ranked No. 4 behind Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem.

McEnroe was in Boston Tuesday promoting the fourth edition of the Laver Cup, which will be held at TD Garden in September. He said watching Federer competing at age 38 has parallels to another dominant athlete in Boston.



John McEnroe, Captain of Team World for the Laver Cup, trades jerseys with Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward before a game against the Brooklyn Nets, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Boston.

Associated Press

"It's like asking the same question on Tom Brady. You know, it's the exact same thing," McEnroe said.

"I mean, how they keep doing it would be the first thing at their age. It's phenomenal, right? I mean,

how in the world are these guys still playing at such a high level?

"I've admired watching Tom Brady because he makes players around him better. But you're out there on your own and you're 38 and you could be turning 39 on a tennis court with the wear and tear. That's really tough. ... It's already amazing he's made it this far."

McEnroe was coaching Milos Raonic in 2016 when he beat Federer at Wimbledon, the only time Raonic has beaten him in a major. "Then Roger limped off the court and didn't play for six months. And I thought, you know, that's pretty much it," McEnroe said. "That's four years ago. And he came back after not having played for six months and managed to win the Australian Open (the next) year, winning three best-of-five set matches, which is virtually unheard of to begin with, and to win three

majors post-surgery. So you never can count him out."

Federer, whose TEAM8 management company helped create the Laver Cup, has played in each of the first three editions of the event, which pits a six-man team from Europe against a team made up of players from the rest of the world.

McEnroe and his former rival Bjorn Borg served as captains of Team World and Team Europe, respectively, for the first three events in Prague (2017), Chicago (2018) and Geneva (2019) — all won by the European team.

They will reprise those roles for the fourth edition in Boston from Sept. 25-27, which has been added to the official ATP calendar.

McEnroe said his latest meetings with Borg as coaches have been as intense as they were when they were tour players.

"There's a lot of a lot of money at stake and pride," McEnroe said. □

Continued from page 18

"Bad grammar," Azinger said Monday. "If I had said 'the' European Tour, the whole thing would have been different."

Maybe.

Either way, that was his lone regret.

"I've said this a million times, and it's how I changed the selection process for the Ryder Cup," said Azinger, the winning captain in 2008. "The only thing pros choke for are cash and prestige. And the PGA Tour has the most of both."

Lee Westwood was among those offended, saying on Twitter the comment was condescending to the tour he plays and "disrespects the tournaments you've won around the world."

Thomas Bjorn, the winning Ryder Cup captain in France, said in a tweet that Azinger easily could have said Fleetwood had won around the world, is a world-class player and "now the time has come for him to prove that on the strongest tour in the world." "He was at best ignorant, at worst arrogant in delivering that," Bjorn added.



Tommy Fleetwood of England hits from the third tee during the fourth round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

"Bring on September!"

The Ryder Cup is Sept. 25-27.

Criticism is found easily by anyone on a mission to find mistakes, and this squabble will pass until the next time Fleetwood or any other European Tour member is in the hunt for his first PGA Tour title.

But it won't be forgotten in September.

It's not as though Europe needs any motivation in the Ryder Cup, having won eight of the last 11. But if the Europeans are look-

ing for chips to put on their shoulders, Azinger provided one.

It was reminiscent of 2006, when the Europeans were going for a third straight Ryder Cup and had a superior team. No matter. Privately, they were seething over comments from second-tier American players who promoted the message that the Nationwide Tour was the second-best tour in golf.

Now that was offensive. Europe demolished the Americans at The K Club

in Ireland, and during the winner's news conference, Sergio Garcia said the result hopefully would keep Europeans from being asked if the Nationwide Tour was the second-best tour in the world.

"Behind Europe," Luke Donald added.

Ouch.

That's a big reason why Europe leans so heavily on the Ryder Cup outcome. It's the one time Europe can prove it stands on equal footing. But that's a fallacy.

Europe has great players, 10 of whom have combined to win 14 majors in the last decade. All of those major champions play on the PGA Tour on a regular basis, and some of them live in America.

Westwood isn't on that list, but with 41 wins around the world across four decades, his record speaks for itself. Azinger was bothered only by the notion that Westwood took his comments as being disrespectful of his career.

"I would never do that," Azinger said.

Yes, Europe has great play-

ers. But the European Tour is nowhere close to the PGA Tour in depth of fields, amount of ranking points, television exposure and most of all, money. The total purse at the Qatar Masters this week is \$1.75 million. The winner of the Arnold Palmer Invitational gets \$1,674,000.

That explains why 43 of the top 50 in the world play a full PGA Tour schedule. Most of the other seven would join if they had the chance. To beat the best in golf means coming to America — not every week, but most weeks.

There is prestige. There is cash. The PGA Tour has the most of both.

Fleetwood will get another chance. Or maybe the opportunity this week will fall to Rafa Cabrera Bello, Tyrrell Hatton or Matt Wallace. And maybe Azinger will not sound as dismissive about the tour where they have won tournaments.

If not soon, the Europeans will have a say in September. There is no cash to be won at the Ryder Cup, only prestige. For Europe, the latter will go a long way. □

Judge, Stanton likely to start on IL; Sale elbow hurting

Injured New York Yankees outfielders Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton are likely to miss New York's opener at Baltimore on March 26.

Judge is having more tests to determine the cause of soreness in the right pectoral area near his shoulder. Judge has not hit on the field since spring training started, and the right fielder felt discomfort Friday when he took batting practice for the second straight day in an indoor cage.

"He feels it more now in the pec," general manager Brian Cashman said Tuesday. "It's moved down toward the pec. We're just trying to figure it out and determine what's bothering him. In the meantime, I can just tell you he is feeling better in the last 48 hours."

Stanton strained his right calf on Feb. 26 during defensive drills. Cashman thinks Stanton will be back in April.

"For the time frame, obviously, we've got to get the healing component done for a Grade 1 strain and then rehab it," Cashman said. "With arguably, what, 3 1/2 weeks to go before opening day I think we'd rather be safe than sorry."

CHRIS SALE

Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale has soreness in his throwing elbow and has undergone an MRI.

Manager Ron Roenicke said Sale felt the soreness in his elbow Monday morning, the day after his 18-pitch batting practice session. Team doctors reviewed the MRI results and sent them to Dr. James Andrews.

Sale's batting practice session Sunday was the first time he faced hitters since he gave up five runs over 6 2/3 innings in a win at Cleveland on Aug. 13. He went on the injured list with elbow inflammation, finishing 6-11 with a 4.40 ERA in 25 starts — his fewest wins and starts and highest ERA in a full season since 2012.

YANKEES 9, RED SOX 1

Masahiro Tanaka struck out five over three perfect innings in his second start, and DJ LeMahieu had a two-run single in a six-run



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws during spring training baseball camp Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla.

Associated Press

first inning off Martin Pérez. Gio Urshela hit his first home run, a solo shot. Five of the six runs off Pérez were unearned. He allowed four hits and a walk, retiring two batters. Rafael Devers hit his second home run, among just two hits for the Red Sox.

CARDINALS 6, ASTROS 3

Paul Goldschmidt homered off Justin Verlander, who allowed three runs — two earned — three hits and a walk in 2 2/3 innings. Matt Wieters also homered for St. Louis. Dakota Hudson allowed one run and two hits in four innings.

NATIONALS 5, ORIOLES 3

Max Scherzer allowed two runs and five hits over 3 1/3 innings with five strikeouts in his second start. Andrew Stevenson and Howie Kendrick had RBI singles, Juan Soto hit a two-run double and Asdrúbal Cabrera added a sacrifice fly in a five-run fifth inning. Pedro Severino had an RBI triple, Mason Williams singled in a run and Chris Davis had

a sacrifice fly for Baltimore, giving him seven RBIs in six games.

MARLINS 6, METS 1

Noah Syndergaard gave up three runs — two earned — and two in five innings with five strikeouts. Garret Cooper had a solo home run and Chad Wallach, the son of former MLB player Tim Wallach, added an RBI single off Syndergaard. Jeff McNeil led off the Mets' first inning with his first home run. Jordan Yamamoto yielded one run and four hits in three innings.

RAYS 5, BRAVES 2

Brandon Lowe singled and walked twice. Austin Riley hit a two-run homer for Atlanta and Ronald Acuña Jr. went 0-for-3, dropping

his average to .105. Ozzie Albies had two hits and is hitting .444 in 18 at-bats.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 1

Marwin González hit his first home run and had a two-run double, and Miguel Sanó hit his first homer. Randy Dobnak, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one hit in three shut-out innings. Closer Taylor Rogers struck out two in a scoreless inning. Kody Clemens, a son of Roger Clemens, hit his first homer for Detroit.

ANGELS 11, INDIANS 7

Michael Hermosillo had a three-run homer and RBI single for the Angels. Andrew Heaney allowed two runs and three hits in three innings. Cleveland's Franmil

Reyes hit his third home run. César Hernández also hit a two-run homer and Carlos Santana had a solo shot. Carlos Carrasco allowed two runs and three hits over two innings in his first start.

RANGERS 6, GIANTS 5

Wilmer Flores hit his first home run and Buster Posey added an RBI single for San Francisco. Logan Webb, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one run and three hits in 2 1/3 innings. Texas started Jordan Lyles yielded three runs and three hits in three innings. Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit his third home run. Joey Gallo went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts and is hitting .188.

CUBS 10, ROCKIES 10

Nolan Arenado hit his second home run, a two-run drive. Ian Happ led off the game with a home run and added an RBI single. Willson Contreras had a two-run single for Chicago. Carlos Quintana gave up three runs and in two innings.

PADRES 9, BREWERS 0

Garrett Richards, who struggled in three September starts last season after recovering from Tommy John surgery in July 2018, allowed one hit over two scoreless innings in his first spring training start. Abraham Almonte hit a grand slam in a seven-run third inning and Trent Grisham had two hits. Milwaukee starter Shelby Miller walked two with three strikeouts in two scoreless innings. Logan Morrison had the Brewers' only hit.

ATHLETICS 6, WHITE SOX 5

Top five prospect Jorge Mateo had three singles, stole his third base and drove in two runs. Ryan Goins had a two-run single. Nicky Delmonico singled and hit his first home run for Chicago. White Sox starter Reynaldo López allowed one run, three hits and three walks in three innings. □



Fasting, Religious Wisdom

**Based on a chapter in Prescriptions from Paradise. Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine.
By Carlos M. Viana**

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, clinically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting. "Fasting" means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity's message. The Christian Bible has thirty-three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have long regarded short periods of abstaining from food as curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it's practically a national sport. Eating once a day, intermittent fasting is proven to boost brain health and low-

er your risk for brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. For one, it reduces obesity and can help protect against diabetes — both increase your risk for developing Alzheimer's.

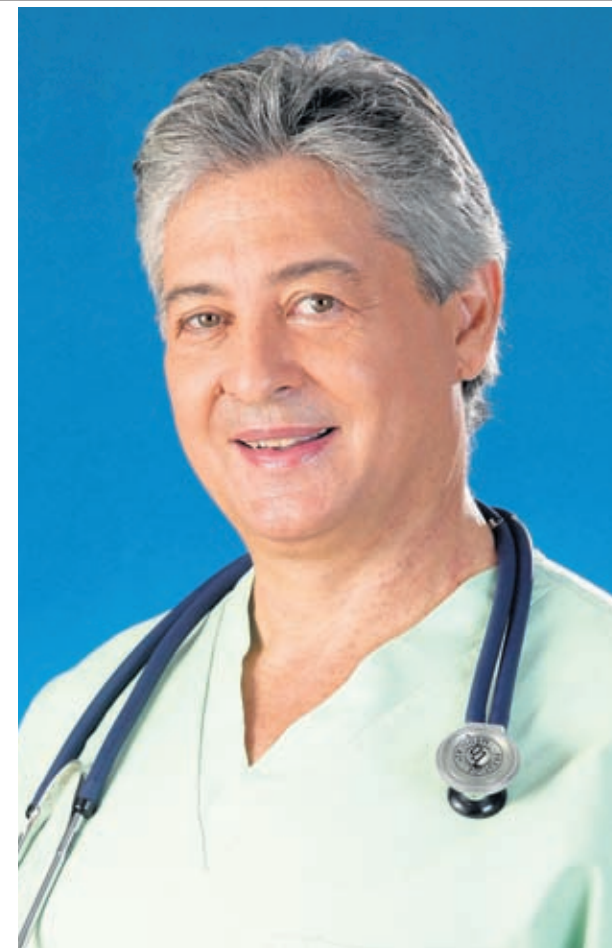
Proponents of fasting offer thousands of testimonials from recovered asthmatics, arthritics, insomniacs, ex-sufferers of migraines, skin, digestive disorders, and other ailments. They maintain that apart from serious conditions like tuberculosis, ulcers, diabetes, hypoglycemia, blood, liver, kidney and heart diseases- systematic voluntary abstention from eating is almost always a healthy first response to illness. One of my medical heroes whose influence prompted me to become a colon hydrotherapist, Dr. Bernard Jensen, has supervised over 50,000 fasts at his center in Escondido, CA.

There are two kinds of fasting. The "water fast" induces rapid internal purification but shocks the system. Dr. Rudolph Ballentine, MD., author of "Diet & Nutrition - A Holistic Approach," says that the average American lacks the proper reserve nutrients necessary for healthy water fast. Dr. Ballentine recommends a supervised, gradual "juice fast" using natural vegetable and fruit juices to provide essential vitamins to sustain metabolism, and minerals which neutralize and removed toxins that are released.

Although abstaining from food is often not as difficult as you may imagine, it is useful to plan. Having medical supervision is the safest way to start your fast. Fasting is not recommended at times of high stress. During the first two days, when you may feel weak and out of sorts, it's nice to be able to be with supportive loved ones, and to rest when you feel like it. Acupuncture works very well to support you through this "rough" period.

One should begin to reduce portion amounts and eat lighter foods several days before all solid food is eliminated. While fasting, be sure to drink enough water to internally wash the system. Enough is: 1 qt/ 90 lbs of body weight (1 lt./each 30kg). Colonic irrigation not only augments the cleansing process, it also helps to hydrate the body.


At Viana Healing Center we routinely supervise patients through a fast where, besides water, only brown rice is eaten for two weeks. Eating no proteins or fats, your body will begin to quickly break down its own excess deposits. This not only helps with weight loss, but we've seen it drastically improve skin, allergies, co-



lon and other problems. The duration of a fast depends on one's medical condition, body weight, lifestyle and other individual factors. In many of our supervised patients, we combine the brown rice fast with periods of taking light, natural foods, almost exclusively vegetables.

If you are one of the people on the list above, not healthy enough to completely fast, but would like to eliminate or reduce certain food for religious or health reasons, be sure to be checked by a professional. Consult with a clinical nutritionist to help you make the right food choices in the safest way. Sometimes, eliminating red meat, dairy and/or gluten containing products like wheat, can drastically improve your health. Adding dietary supplements might be recommended. Always read labels to make sure your vitamins are free from artificial or unwanted ingredients like sugar and starch fillers. Get the Point! As a student of ecclesiastical discipline I see that the religious obligation of fasting is rarely observed in its integrity nowadays. What a pity, fasting brings into harmony our mind, soul and body. Fasting and abstaining from excessive food results in the lightening of the capabilities of the mind and the soul. Come in so we can help you plan and safely supervise your spring (cleaning) fast. □

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

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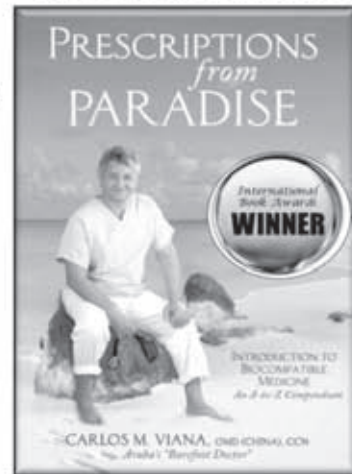
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Millennial Money: Credit card loyalty is no virtue

By GREGORY KARP of Nerd-Wallet

Loyalty is often a good thing, but not in a relationship with your credit card. It's often better to be like the "distracted boyfriend" from the internet meme and use your wandering eye to see if you can do better.

The credit card market is bubbling with useful and rewarding offers for many kinds of consumers and lifestyles. Yet, many Americans have the wrong card, and their loyalty is hurting them financially.

At least 1 in 5 credit card customers are carrying the wrong card, usually because fees or rewards are misaligned with their purchasing habits, J.D. Power has said in its annual U.S. Credit Card Satisfaction Study.

They're in a dysfunctional relationship with their credit card, and it's potentially costing them hundreds of dollars.

REASONS TO DUMP IT

Changing circumstances can sour a love affair, even with a credit card.

Sometimes the card changes for the worse, with a higher annual fee or slashed benefits, for ex-

ample. Sometimes the market changes, and the old standby doesn't cut it anymore — 1% cash back is so 2013. And sometimes "it's not you, it's me." The card is the same, but your needs and spending habits have evolved since you first hooked up. You've simply grown apart.

So, embrace credit card infidelity if you can score a better deal that either saves money — with a lower interest rate or long 0% period — or makes money with better rewards, whether that's cash back, points or airline miles.

For example, if you charge \$1,500 a month on your card, you'll earn \$540 more from a 2% cash back card than a 1% card over just three years.

Granted, some people shouldn't have a credit card at all because it encourages them to get into debt — they just aren't built for that type of commitment. But if you use cards properly, you'll be able to find a match that will complete you financially.

BREAKUP TIP

If you want out of a toxic relationship, canceling your card usually isn't the best way to do it. It's better to



In this Feb. 20, 2019, file photo photo shows credit cards in Zelenople, Pa.

Associated Press

ghost it.

With a credit card, that means cutting everyday ties with the card, maybe sticking it in a sock drawer and using it a few times a year. Why? The card account is part of your long credit history, which can help your credit rating. And keeping a lot of credit open, while using little of it, helps your credit utilization ratio, another key factor in your credit scores. Using the card a few times a year means the issuer is less likely to cancel the account for inactivity.

Granted, tenure with your issuer might mean you have leverage to talk things

out, especially if you want a lower interest rate or a higher credit limit. Those are relationship issues you can overcome. You might even be able to swap partners, with an upgrade to a more lucrative card within that issuer's card family or a downgrade to a card with no annual fee.

But if you can't downgrade to avoid an annual fee, sometimes that financial baggage just isn't worth it anymore. Consider closing the account and making a clean break, even if it will ding your credit.

THE RELATIONSHIP YOU DESERVE

Before swiping right on

a new credit card, think about what you really want out of a new relationship. You don't want to fall for a rebound card that flatters you with blingy names — gold, platinum, diamond — until you're certain it has the long-term qualities you need.

Be wooed by things that matter. If you'll transfer debt, you want a lengthy 0% period. If you'll travel the world, you want to be rewarded for travel spending and not be charged a fee for foreign transactions.

Besides paying attention to advertising from card issuers, you can also read credit card reviews and use interactive online tools that help you find your newest wallet partner.

And you might try a love triangle of sorts: using two cards in tandem to find chemistry. A flashier one for outsize rewards on some spending — like 5% back on gas or groceries — and a reliable one for all other spending, preferably at least 1.5% back.

There are plenty of fish in the sea and credit cards on the market. By breaking fidelity with your credit card, you might ultimately be more loyal to yourself. □

ECB's Lagarde: 'Ready to take targeted action' on economy

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The head of the European Central Bank said Monday that Europe's top monetary authority is ready to

take "appropriate and targeted measures" if necessary to support the economy against the headwinds from the new coronavirus.

Christine Lagarde said in a statement that the virus "is a fast developing situation which creates risks for the economic outlook." She said the bank would closely monitor developments and act "as necessary and commensurate with the underlying risks."

Lagarde's remarks come as stock markets have risen in

the U.S. on speculation that central banks may step in with action to support the global economy against the disruption caused by the spread of the virus. That is the case even though some economists think central bank action might only have symbolic value, since lower interest rates cannot re-open businesses

that have been closed to prevent the spread of the virus. □

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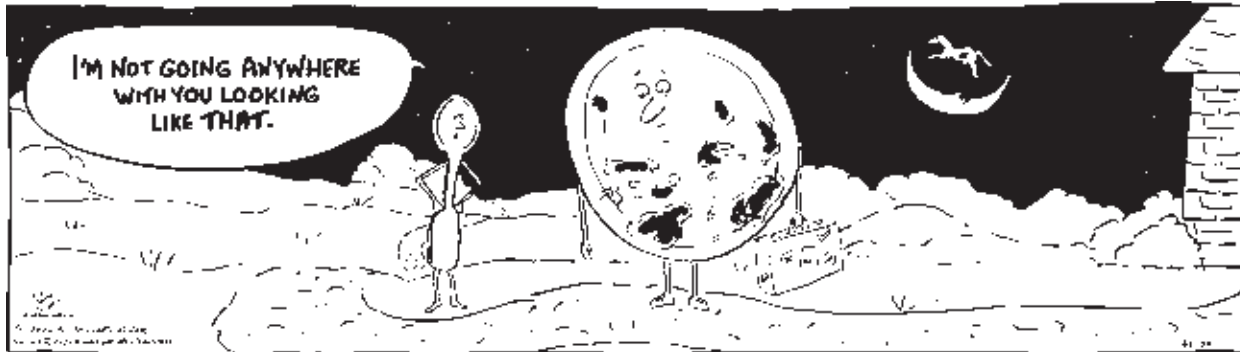
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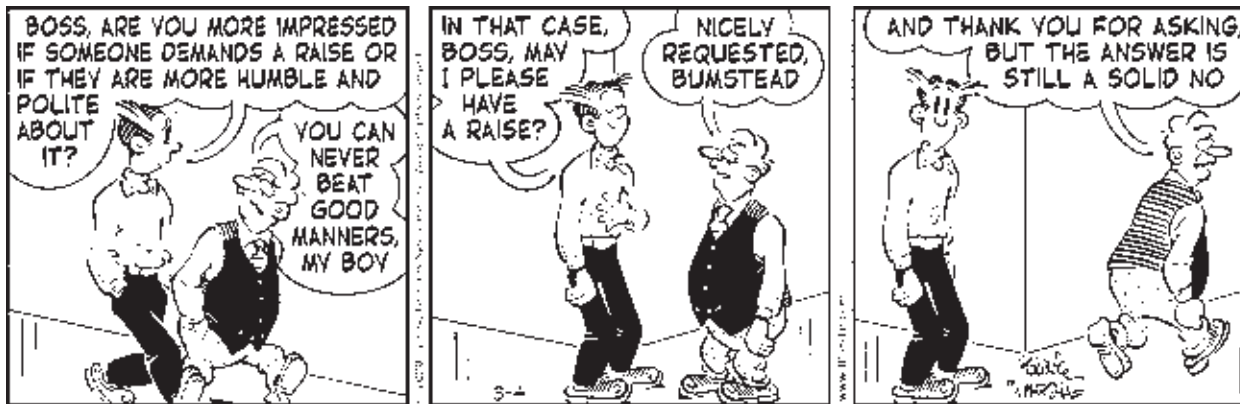
Mutts



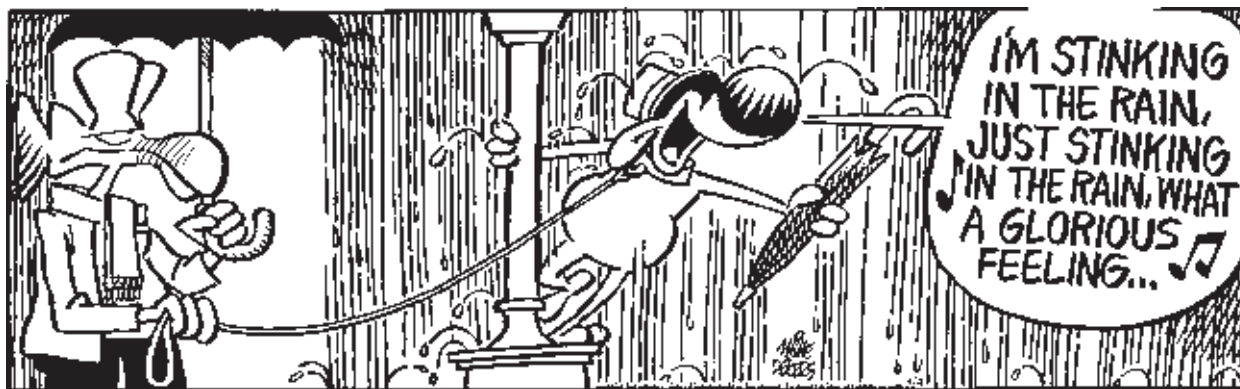
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	3			9				
1			3	4				
			6	5		2		
		9		7	8	6	1	7
	1						9	
5							8	
7							6	
9	4	8	2				3	

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

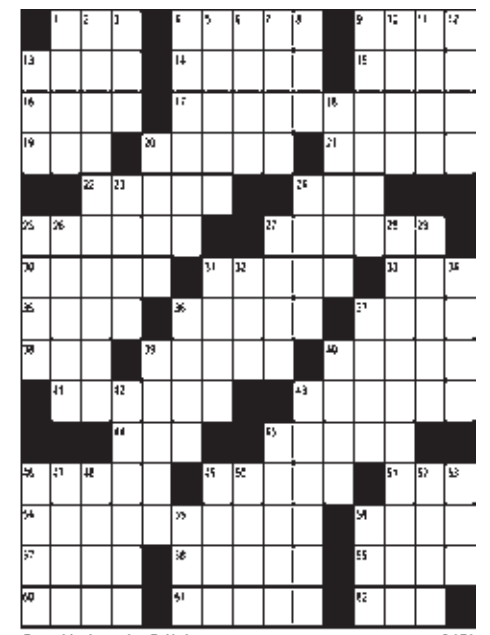
8	1	3	6	7	5	9	2	4
7	5	4	8	2	9	1	6	3
6	9	2	1	4	3	7	5	8
2	4	7	5	3	1	6	8	9
3	8	1	2	9	6	5	4	7
5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2
1	7	8	3	5	2	4	9	6
9	2	6	7	1	4	8	3	5
4	3	5	9	6	8	2	7	1

ACROSS

- 1 Retirement acct.
- 4 Disney deer
- 9 Demonstrate
- 13 Peaches pop
- 14 Ended on note, concluded unclesanily
- 15 Dandy
- 18 Marshlands
- 17 Squ're's away
- 19 Time Bottle, Jim Croce song
- 20 Wire kitchen utensil
- 21 Indoor stadium
- 22 Vore Lulusia
- 24 Prefix for school or caution
- 25 Police Dis
- 27 Like formal wear
- 30 Steve or Tim
- 31 Asks nosy questions
- 33 Sagoon
- 35 Rec nes
- 36 Ram or ewe
- 37 Burning contest
- 38 Dieter's concern

DOWN

- 1 Dressshoe material
- 2 Voreless
- 3 B boards
- 4 Bad-mouths
- 5 Up and about
- 6 Pasture cres
- 7 Dollar
- 8 Initale
- 9 Staetles
- 10 Heatry
- 11 up, speak candidly
- 12 Fuzzy Wilzy bear
- 13 TV series for Seta Ward
- 18 down: reduces
- 20 Songbird
- 23 Rock of Christian hymn
- 24 Actor in some high school names
- 25 Formal dance
- 26 Exouse
- 27 Penches
- 28 Rockels
- 29 Unpleasant; repugnant
- 31 Fraternity letters
- 32 House member
- 34 Nickname for Elizabeth
- 35 Took to court
- 37 Hoax
- 39 Ecuador's capital



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/4/20

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GIGS	SCRAP	COST
NOAH	CREPE	QAHU
AWRY	HEART	THROB
TAG	TOED	ROSES
ADIOS	JAR	
DANIEL	NECTAR	
ALTER	CREEK	NET
TOUT	GRASP	STAY
AHA	GRANT	SHIRK
ANTHEM	MOUSSE	
RAW	PIANO	
CAYON	MASK	CAW
UPROARIOUS	RILE	
BEEP	AROSE	VASE
AXES	GENES	SLOP

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3/4/20

- 40 Idiot
- 42 Parts of an act in a play
- 43 Large groups of people
- 45 Influence power
- 46 Middle East nation
- 47 Oxford, for one
- 48 Fuzzy residue
- 49 Neighbor of Coomcia
- 50 Encourage
- 52 Marian vehicles, for short
- 53 Guys
- 55 Womanizer
- 56 McCaravan of 'The Golden Girls'

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

For Rent

Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Ocean Side \$4 K
6 March to 13 March 2020
Marriott Ocean Club
1 BR Ocean View \$3 K
20 March to 27 March 2020

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season
1 BR Ocean View \$ 10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$ 26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 8
building 6 on the 4 th floor
27 weeks remain \$15 K
1 BR WK # 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK # 11/12
building 9 on the 7 th floor
30 weeks remain \$35 K each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 6
Birdie 1 on the 2 sd floor
19 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Studio WK # 5,7,8 \$8 K each
Birdie 1 on Ground floor
22/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 8/9 \$9,5 K each
Eagle 9 Ground floor
27 and 19 weeks remain
1 BR WK # 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 Ground Floor
33/34 weeks remain
Studio WK # 5,6,7,8,9
Birdie 9 3rd floor \$10 K each
38 weeks remain each

Divi Village

2 BR WK 13 \$ 14 K
Building C 3rd floor
28 weeks remain

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1 BR WK 7 and 8 \$ 9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$ 18 K
25 weeks remain
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$ 8 K
12 weeks remain
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
1 BR WK 7 and 8 \$ 9 K each
12/24 weeks remain
16 weeks remain

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*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK. 52 OV \$49k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views
GOLD Season
2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8k
GV \$5k OV \$7k
3BEDRM \$13k

Marriott Aruba Ocean

PLATINUM Season
2 Bed OV \$16500 **Club**
2B OF \$26k
1B OV \$9k
** Destination points \$8 per
point
GOLD Season
2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$9k
1 Bed \$4k
1B OF \$9k

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Exxon outlines its steps to reduce harmful methane emissions

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Mobil on Tuesday outlined how it is reducing the methane its operations release into the atmosphere, detailing its efforts as governments around the globe write new rules to regulate the harmful greenhouse gas.

The oil and gas giant is seeking to influence the way those rules are written, hoping companies and regulators adopt the procedures Exxon says helped reduce methane emissions by 20% in some of its U.S. drilling operations over the past two years.

"Our industry has developed high-tech advances to curb emissions, and we also hope this framework will be helpful for governments as they develop new regulations," said Darren Woods, chairman and CEO of Exxon, in a statement accompanying a document outlining Exxon's procedures for reducing methane emissions.

Some environmental advocates see Exxon's move as a rebuke of President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency, which in August proposed relaxing regulations on methane emissions. But they also said Exxon needs to be much more aggressive in its efforts to curtail global warming.



In this Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017, file photo, a flame burns at the Shell Deer Park oil refinery in Deer Park, Texas.

Associated Press

"The steps Exxon Mobil has taken and the commitments the company announced are nowhere near sufficient to get us there," said Kathy Mulvey, accountability campaign director at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "We need to see much more ambitious and urgent actions taken by companies like Exxon Mobil."

Methane has 86 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. It is the main component of natural gas, and when companies drill for

oil, they generally also get natural gas, whether they want it or not. Methane is released in the atmosphere during extraction and distribution of natural gas, and while many scientists agree this is a major problem, there is little data to show exactly how much is leaking into the atmosphere. Last year, Exxon and other oil giants pushed back the EPA's proposal to relax regulations on methane emissions. At the time, many had already invested in equipment and upgrades to satisfy emissions regulations enacted under former President Barack Obama.

Major oil companies are also under pressure from investors to prove they will be able to adapt to future regulations that aim to curtail global warming.

"With the climate crisis upon us, companies can't afford to ignore their contributions to climate change," said Ben Ratner, senior director at the Environmental Defense Fund. "In at least one or two parts of (Exxon's methane) framework, what they are recommending appeared to fall considerably short of what would be considered the best available operational practice and regulatory re-

quirements."

Exxon's model framework included establishing a leak detection and repair program to identify and fix gas leaks as soon as possible, with inspections for leaks happening at least once per year. Some major oil companies are conducting inspections monthly, using sensors mounted on drones, Ratner said.

"The truth is it needs to be much more, and we need to be driving to a world of continuous, real-time monitoring and rapid mitigation of this highly potent greenhouse gas," Ratner said. "Once-a-year inspection is not a serious proposal for regulatory requirements that are up to the magnitude of the challenge."

Exxon, which is based in Irving, Texas, said its framework is a starting point for discussions for policy makers, and that governments or private companies could choose to go above and beyond what's presented in the model.

The company also suggested that if an oil and gas operator had to vent natural gas, it would be better to burn it off, or "flare" it, instead of releasing methane directly into the atmosphere. It suggested improving the combustion efficiency of flares so that methane isn't accidentally released as a result of incomplete combustion. □



This July 25, 2016 photo of blueberries growing in a container on a property near Langley, Wash., illustrates that gardeners operate on a much smaller scale than farmers yet can make some major sustainability impacts by growing their own food and planting things that don't need as much fertilizer or pesticides, minimizing risks to the environment.

'Sustainable gardening' includes many eco-friendly practices

By DEAN FOSDICK

"Sustainable" is one of gardening's trendiest buzzwords, yet it carries a range of definitions. Just what does it mean in practical terms, and how important is it to the average gardener?

Very important, according to a recent plant trends study by horticulturalists with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). It found strong interest in native plants, "re-wilding" gardens, growing edibles, and going easy on wildlife,

among other concerns.

"More and more people are supporting sustainability, where the social, environmental and economic factors balance," said Mark Tancig, a horticulture agent with University of Florida Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension. "That means planting things that don't require as much water or fertilizer. Using plants that resist disease and insects. Choosing native plants in mixtures that attract wildlife."

"That not only saves you money, but they look good,

too," Tancig said. "They're restorative to the environment."

Sustainable isn't necessarily the same as organic, noted Erica Chernoh, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist.

"Organic" has become legally recognized," Chernoh said. "Sustainability is more of an open book, combining ecological, sociological and economic factors." "They can do that by not over-fertilizing, by eliminating any spraying that isn't necessary," she said. □

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24/7

Recording Academy fires ousted CEO, citing investigations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Recording Academy on Monday fired Deborah Dugan, its former president who called into question the integrity of the Grammy Awards nominations process and said she was sexually harassed by a top lawyer for the organization, which she called a boys' club that coddled and favored powerful men. The academy said the decision was reached after "two exhaustive, costly independent investigations" about Dugan and her allegations. It said the reviews found "consistent management deficiencies and failures," though no specifics were offered.

Dugan had been on administrative leave since mid-January, when she was ousted after a complaint of mistreatment from a longtime Recording Academy employee, which the academy said Monday was one of multiple complaints from people across the organization. Dugan had raised several issues about the way the organization ran and accused its top lawyers of acting inappropriately toward her



In this Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, file photo, Recording Academy President/CEO Deborah Dugan participates in the 62nd Grammy Awards nominations news conference at Studio 43 at CBS Broadcast Center in New York.

Associated Press

during a business meeting, which she detailed in a discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Dugan said Monday that the academy's investigations did not include interviews with her, or address her claims of conflict of interest and voting irregularities.

"While I am disappointed by this latest development, I am not surprised given the Academy's pattern of dealing with whistle blowers," She said in a statement. "So, instead of trying to reform the corrupt institution from within, I will continue to work to hold accountable those who continue to self-deal, taint the Grammy

voting process and discriminate against women and people of color." Dugan's ouster played out days before the academy's most important night, the Grammy Awards, a ceremony that made no mention of her or her allegations of a rigged voting process for some of the ceremony's top awards.

The academy said it had engaged in some settlement discussions with Dugan but opted to fire her instead, and will begin the search for a new CEO. "We could not reward her with a lucrative settlement and thereby set a precedent that behavior like hers has no consequence," the academy's executive committee wrote in a letter to members. "Our members and employees, and the entire music industry, deserve better than that." Dugan's attorneys said in a statement that the academy's decision to fire her and immediately notify media outlets "further demonstrates that it will stop at nothing to protect and maintain a culture of misogyny, discrimination, sexual harassment, corruption and conflicts of interest."q Dugan's EEOC complaint alleged that Joel Katz, an influential music attorney and the academy's general counsel, tried to woo her romantically and attempted to kiss her against her wishes during a dinner last year that had been presented as a business meeting.□

Chanel hosts pared-down show as virus keeps many VIPs away

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Chanel staged a comparatively low-key affair for Paris Fashion Week as the coronavirus outbreak kept many of the regular VIPs and fashion editors away. The stalwart Parisian design house streamed its show online. Some of the guests who came to see Chanel's fall collection up close Tuesday wore CC-branded face masks.

Artistic director Virginie Viard channeled restraint in the collection, a marked departure from her predecessor and mentor, the late Karl Lagerfeld. Although the show took place at the Grand Palais exhibition hall on the Champs-Élysées, simplicity was the Chanel "mot du jour, from the set of tiered white steps to the pared-down aesthetic of

the monochrome display. Here are some highlights on the last day of Paris Fashion Week for fall-winter 2020 ready-to-wear.

CHANEL

"A very simple, very pure momentum. Romanticism, but without any flourishes," is how Vivard described the collection, said Viard. Evoking French film director Claude Chabrol's 1968 film "The Doves," a drama about seduction that focuses on bisexual lovers, female models walked the runway together and chatted like intimates for the first looks. The models wore stylish retro black leather boots, ones with a brandy bell-shaped collar at the mid-calf that turned out to be the collection's leitmotif. Viard's simplest designs were the most effective: A black silk bodice dress with the top lobbed off and



Models wear creations for the Chanel fashion collection during Women's fashion week Fall/Winter 2020/21 presented in Paris, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Associated Press

dropped Juliette sleeves. Modeled by Cindy Crawford's daughter, Kaia Gerber, it had guests clicking their cameras. Voluminous studded jodhpurs opened up at the bottom cut a beautiful silhouette. This design, Viard said, was an homage to Lagerfeld's

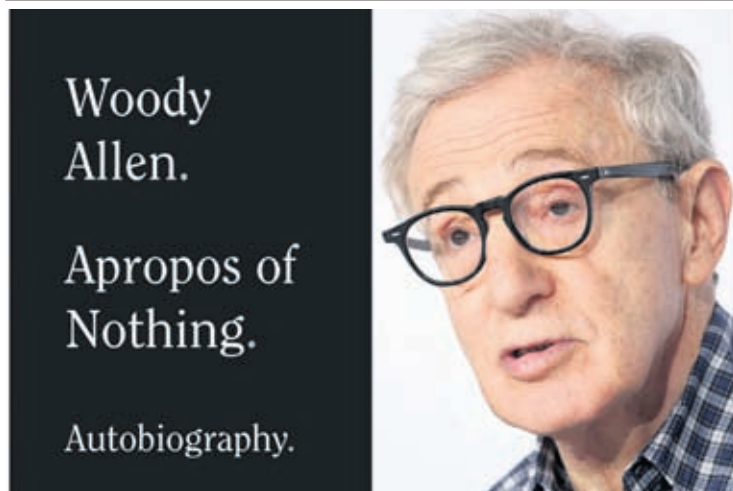
personal style. A loose wool jacket in Chanel's emblematic pink with a soft-spiky collar was also a high point. The one drawback of the tasteful showing were some of the overly flashy jewelry that often distracted the eye from the show's central aesthetic.

MIU MIU

There has been renewed focus on Miuccia Prada after she announced during Milan Fashion Week that she had hired Belgian designer Raf Simons as co-creative director of the family house that she directed to icon status.

The first show since then for Prada's little sister brand, Miu Miu, did not disappoint creatively. The "intellectual" fashion display was a pastiche of itself.

Bright color, intentionally contrasting checks, faux animal fur and sumptuous shimmering silk gowns merged divergent references for disruptive and quirky effect. Old school glamour came in a emerald green crinkled silk column dress modeled with 1930s-style wavy hair that looked like it had been left in curlers a little too long.□



This combination photo shows a book cover image for "Apropos of Nothing," an autobiography by Woody Allen, to be released on April 7.

Associated Press

Long-rumored Woody Allen memoir coming in April

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
Associated press

NEW YORK (AP) — A memoir by Woody Allen, rumored for years and once thought unpublishable in the #MeToo era, is coming out next month.

Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group, announced Monday that the book is called "Apropos of Nothing" and will be released April 7.

"The book is a comprehensive account of his life, both personal and professional, and describes his work in films, theater, television, nightclubs, and print," according to Grand Central. "Allen also writes of his relationships with family, friends, and the loves of his life."

Financial terms were not disclosed for the book, which Grand Central quietly acquired a year ago, and a spokesman declined to provide further details about the book's contents. In addition to the U.S., "Apropos of Nothing" will be released in Canada, Italy, France, Germany and Spain, followed by releases in "countries around the world." Allen will do "several interviews" for the book, Grand Central announced. The 84-year-old Allen is an Oscar-winning filmmaker, known for such works as "Annie Hall" and "The Purple Rose of Cairo," and is

among the most influential comedians of his time. But allegations by daughter Dylan Farrow that he molested her as a child in the early 1990s have effectively idled his movie career in the U.S. Amazon Studios backed out of a production and distribution deal with Allen, and numerous actors have said they won't work with him anymore. His "A Rainy Day In New York" was released in Europe last year but not in this country. His current production, "Rifkin's Festival," starring Christoph Waltz and Gina Gershon, was shot last summer and is seeking distribution.

Allen has denied any wrongdoing, and he was never charged after two separate investigations in the 1990s. But Dylan's allegations have received new attention in the #MeToo era.

An Allen memoir nearly came out more than a decade ago. He had reportedly reached a multimillion-dollar deal with Penguin in 2003, but changed his mind. In 2018-2019, several publishers, citing #MeToo concerns, reportedly rebuffed an Allen representative who was seeking a deal for his memoir. But according to a Grand Central spokesman, a deal was reached in March 2019 after Publisher and Senior

Vice President Ben Sevier read a completed draft of the book.

An Allen memoir once seemed the most obvious of publications. He has had a celebrated career as a performer and director, and is known for wordplay and one-liners. He has won three Academy awards for his screenplays and has been a published writer for decades, his comic essays appearing in The New Yorker and elsewhere. His previous books include the essay collections "Without Feathers" and "Getting Even."

Allen's agreement with Hachette means he shares a publisher with one of his literary heroes, J.D. Salinger, and one of his biggest detractors, his son Ronan Farrow, whose "Catch and Kill" was released last year by the Hachette division Little, Brown and Company. Farrow won a Pulitzer Prize for his #MeToo reporting on producer Harvey Weinstein, and for years has been estranged from his father, as is Ronan's mother, Mia Farrow, who starred in "The Purple Rose of Cairo," "Hannah and Her Sisters" and other Allen movies. This fall, a division of Macmillan will publish Dylan Farrow's debut novel, "Hush," billed as a "powerful feminist fantasy full of surprising insights." □

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'Judge Judy' will end 25-year run, but star sticking around

NEW YORK (AP) — "Judge Judy" will be ending, but Judge Judy isn't going anywhere.

Confused? Judy Sheindlin's announcement Monday that her popular syndicated courtroom show will end production in 2021 sets the stage for her return in a different format even as her old show may not really go anywhere.

The tough-talking former New York family court judge has ruled her television courtroom since 1996

and its popularity made her the highest-paid personality in TV. She announced on "Ellen" that next season will be her 25th and last making original episodes of "Judge Judy."

After that, the 77-year-old mediator will be making a new show called "Judy Justice" that will debut in fall 2021.

"If you're not tired, you're not supposed to stop," Sheindlin told Ellen DeGeneres. CBS, meanwhile, has made a two-year deal with

stations that currently carry "Judge Judy" to air reruns of the program. Based on 25 years of a regular production schedule, it's likely there are some 5,000 episodes of the program in CBS' library, said Bill Carroll, a program consultant and expert in the syndication market.

Currently, most markets air two half-hour episodes of "Judge Judy" back-to-back on weekdays, and the second one is usually a rerun from a past year. □

'Inside the Actors Studio' host James Lipton dies at 93

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Lipton, an actor-turned-drama-school-dean who got hundreds of Hollywood luminaries to open up about their life and art and became an unlikely celebrity himself as the longtime host of "Inside the Actors Studio," died Monday.

Lipton died of bladder cancer at his New York home, his wife, Kedakai Lipton, told The Associated Press. He was 93.

The Detroit-born Lipton began the Bravo show in 1994 that also served as a class for his students at the Actors Studio Drama School, where he was then dean.

He often said his only requirement for a guest was whether they had something to teach his students. His first guest, Paul Newman, set a standard of stardom for those that would follow, including Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, Glenn Close, Steven Spielberg and Barbra Streisand.

"Rest in peace, James Lipton. He was interested in the actor's process, which was so refreshing," Streisand said in a Twitter post.

Lipton was known, and often parodied, for his highbrow and sometimes worshipful tone with his subjects, and for his intensive preparation, represented by a stack of blue note cards that held his meticulously researched questions. When Will Ferrell played Lipton on "Saturday Night Live," the stack of cards was nearly a foot thick.

Many otherwise media-shy actors were willing to appear on "Inside the Actors Studio" because Lipton focused on their craft and not the usual celebrity chatter or project promotion.

"People do not come on to sell a movie and you never hear the words, 'I'm opening in Vegas in two weeks,'" Lipton told the AP in a 1996 interview. "That's what most talk shows depend upon, and that's fine, but with us we're getting together to dig as deep as we can."

He was not afraid to get personal, however, and his stunned interviewees often asked "How did you know



This Sept. 28, 2017 file photo shows James Lipton at the New York City Ballet's Fall Fashion Gala in New York.

Associated Press

that?" when he asked about something from their childhood or private life.

Julia Roberts asked Lipton if he had talked to her mother after one set of questions, and Sally Field in her first-season appearance asked, "Have you been reading my diary? Talking to my shrink?"

"Obviously we deal in lots of anecdotes, and even some gossip and secrets," Lipton told the AP, "but they're tied together by a concern for and devotion to craft."

He ended every interview with a set of soul-searching questions he derived from French television host Bernard Pivot, including, "What is your favorite curse word?" and "If God exists, what would you like to hear

him say after your death?" Lipton's own childhood was made financially perilous by the divorce of his parents, poet and journalist Lawrence Lipton and teacher Betty Weinberg.

"I always had to work, from the age of 13. When my father left, we had nothing," he told Parade magazine in 2013. While he dabbled in acting as a youngster, he intended to pursue law to avoid the instability he'd experienced as a youngster.

He ultimately turned back to his original passion, the arts, but with an unusual detour. He worked as a pimp for a year in Paris after World War II, Lipton told Parade. He was broke and planning to leave the city when a prostitute he knew

suggested he represent her and others.

"It was only a few years after the war. Paris was different then, still poor. Men couldn't get jobs and, in the male chauvinist Paris of that time, the women couldn't get work at all. It was perfectly respectable for them" to work at one of city's bordellos, Lipton said. Back home in the U.S., he studied acting with famed teacher Stella Adler as well as production and directing at New York University and the New School. His 1950s stage and screen credits included "The Autumn Garden" on Broadway and a stint as actor and then writer on the TV soap opera "The Guiding Light." Lipton wrote the book and the lyrics for two

Broadway musicals, "Nowhere to Go but Up" (1962) and "Sherry!" (1967).

In the 1990s, as a vice president of the Actors Studio, Lipton helped create the Actors Studio Drama School that brought together the resources of the studio and the New School. He was the founding dean of the graduate-level school, which in 2005 relocated to Pace University, where Lipton remained its dean emeritus.

Despite his TV show's guest list of nearly every A-list actor of recent decades, Lipton never got the guest he wanted most, Marlon Brando.

"He was reclusive in the last years of his life," Lipton told Parade. "He said, 'I'm never going to do your show. The studio's always taking credit for me. I was trained by Stella Adler.' I said, 'So was I. Come on. We'll talk about Stella.' I've had a pretty good roster of guests without Marlon."

Lipton said his favorite guest on the show was Bradley Cooper, because he was a former student.

"The night that one of my students has achieved so much that he or she comes back and sits down in that chair would be the night that I have waited for since we started this thing," Lipton told Larry King in 2016. "It turned out to be Bradley Cooper."

Lipton and Cooper, who can be seen asking Sean Penn a question in a 1999 episode of the show, both teared up when he returned as a guest in 2011. Lipton retired as host in 2018.

Other than Brando and Jack Nicholson, another favorite of his who he never had as a guest, Lipton spent little time trying to land big names, who often came to him as appearing on the show became a sought-after sign of career achievement for actors.

Lipton told the AP that that response from actors made him think that "maybe, just maybe, we were creating an archive that would be more valuable 100 years from now." □

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